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Sabah's wife laid to rest

KUWAIT, April 1, (Kuna): The body of Sheikhha Fatouh Salman Al Hmoud Al Sabah, wife of Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, was laid to rest here today.

Sheikhha Fatouh, 54, died last night and news of her death was announced by the Amiri Diwan.

The funeral procession was led by H.H. the Amir, H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdallah, head of the National Guard Sheikh Salem Al Ali, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, Sheikhha, two sons of the deceased Sheikh Nasser and Sheikh Hamad as well as members of the bereaved family.

Condolences will be accepted by Dasman Palace after the Eshah prayers tonight.

Rebels threaten US men in Manila

MANILA, April 1, (AP): The Communist rebel chieftain threatened today to escalate attacks in cities and warned that targets could include US military personnel and Japanese aid workers allegedly involved in counter-insurgency efforts.

Both US and Japanese officials deny any role in counter-insurgency operations.

Romulo Kintanar, chief of staff of the New People's Army, escaped in November 1988 while attending a birthday party for his former prison warden. He made the remarks in a written statement sent to news organisations three days after the rebel movement marked its 21st year anniversary.

"Definitely, we will intensify urban warfare as the puppet government of (President Corason) Aquino and its military continues to oppress people in cities and the whole country," Kintanar said. "It is to be expected that the mass movement and partisan operations will be heightened in urban centres."

Kintanar said that targets would include Americans along with and Japanese involved in counter-insurgency. He said US troops have no right to stay in the Philippines "even for a brief period of time."

He also charged that projects funded by the Japanese official development assistance are being used against their "mass base" in the countryside, and that Japanese aid workers were therefore legitimate targets.

"We gathered information that the Japanese Oda is being used for counter-insurgency," he said. "There are also times when their aid is used against peasants, their livelihood and the environment."

"We are warning the Japanese government to stop this. We are asking the Japanese people to oppose this evil deed by their government."

Aquino conferred today with congressional leaders but failed to overcome opposition to her controversial agrarian reform secretary.

The meeting, which included leaders of the pro-Aquino struggle of the democratic Filipino Party (LDP), was called to overcome opposition to confirming former Rep. Florencio Abad as secretary of Agrarian Reform.

Although the party is pro-Aquino, members on the congressional commission on appointments have blocked Abad's appointment because they claim he is biased against landlords.

Demonstrators battle police near Downing Street; 130 injured and 340 arrested; shops looted as angry crowds rampage



An anti-poll-tax demonstrator perches on a lamp post as a construction site cabin burns in the background. (Reuters wirephoto)

London revolt against poll tax

I'm not retiring, says Thatcher

LONDON, April 1, (Agencies): Demonstrators battled police on the streets of London for more than seven hours in the most violent protests yet against a new tax which has sent Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's popularity plummeting.

As many as 130 people, almost half of them police, were injured as angry crowds rampaged through the centre of the British capital yesterday, attacking police with stones, overturning cars, starting fires and smashing shop windows.

A rally of more than 40,000 people demonstrating against the so-called "poll tax" erupted in violence when a breakaway group tried to reach Thatcher's Downing Street residence and were pushed back by police.



A policeman arrests a rioter as violence spread through-out downtown London streets following anti-poll tax demonstrations in Trafalgar Square March 31. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hundreds of youths began pelting police lines with stones pillaged from a building site on Whitehall, site on the main government offices.

Police and hospital officials said as many as 57 police and 75 civilians were injured. The officer in charge of policing the rally, Deputy Assistant Commissioner David Meynell, told a news conference 341 people were arrested.

He said the event began as a peaceful and organised march and hit around 3,000 "fairly hard core violent people" for the disorder.

A building in Trafalgar Square was set alight and a thick pall of smoke rose the area littered with broken glass and debris. A small fire at the South African embassy was put out.

Theatres cancelled shows and restaurants closed as the disturbances spread. People heading for the theatre and tourists caught by the violence ran for cover.

The 2,000 policemen assigned to police the rally at first retreated under a shower of missiles but later regrouped and charged into the crowd. Riot police with shields and batons and police officers on horseback were called in.

"The police tried to crush us from both sides from Whitehall," said a student who asked to be identified only as Lara. "People were in a panic. There were young children there and old people, but the horses were stepping on anybody."

(Continued on Page 2)

Threat to kill US citizens

Anger at Jew influx

AMMAN, April 1, (Reuters): A previously unknown Muslim group threatened in a statement reported today to kill Americans in reprisal for what it called Washington's anti-Arab campaigns.

The Islamic Army for the Liberation of Palestine said it would also attack Polish and Soviet interests for helping Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel and take action against Britain to halt what it called a British campaign against Iraq.

The English-language Jordan Times daily said local Islamic movements denied links with the group.

It quoted Muslim Brotherhood sources as saying it was backed by one of Jordan's Arab neighbours, which it did not name, and was affiliated to the Hamas and Islamic Jihad factions in the Israeli-held West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The Islamic Army for the Liberation of Palestine warns that it will blow up 173 American companies operating in the Arab Gulf region and assassinate important American personalities, including American ambassadors," said the one-page handwritten statement in Arabic.

It said the warning was prompted by "Washington's threats to Muslim Libya, especially against Rabta Plast."

The United States says Libya is trying to make chemical weapons at its Rabta factory, which may have been damaged in a mysterious fire last month. Libya denies the charge.

Meanwhile, a Jordanian official said today a fundamentalist Islamic group fired two Soviet-made rockets at neighbouring Israel on Thursday from an area in southern Jordan bordering the Jewish state.

The incident followed a brief clash between the Jordanian Army and a group of infiltrators who crossed into Jordan from the eastern border of Syria on March 21.

Call for mass weddings

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, April 1, (AP): The ruler of this southern Gulf emirate, Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qassbi, has called for holding mass weddings to cut down on high marriage expenses.

In the oil-rich Gulf, not only are dowries exorbitant but the families of brides and bridegrooms by custom have to organize lavish wedding celebrations.

The heavy cost of marrying has created a social problem that hinders marriages and prompts men to seek Indian, Filipino or Egyptian wives who do not insist on the local dowry levels.

A dowry may go as high as 100,000 dirhams (\$28,000), with an equivalent amount needed for wedding expenses.

Sheikh Sultan, in a television address yesterday night criticized fathers over their exaggerated demands from those who seek their daughters in marriage. "The problem is that there are several greedy fathers," he said.

NEWSWATCH

Stronger GCC, ACC ties urged: Former secretary-general of the Arab League Mahmud Riad called for stronger security links between two Arab groups in remarks published on Sunday.

He said the six Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states and the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) grouping Jordan, Egypt, North Yemen and Iraq should co-ordinate more closely. (Reuters)

Car ploughs into a group: Thirteen people were killed when a car ploughed into a group of supporters on their way to hear African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela address a rally on Sunday.

A spokesman for Livingstone Hospital in the eastern cape coastal town of Port Elizabeth said at least 12 people were injured. (Reuters)

Guide raises money: A Swiss mountain guide climbed, jumped, ran, rode and swam his way across Switzerland from the Matterhorn to Geneva at the weekend in a bid to raise money for the handicapped.

Using 13 different non-motorised forms of transport from horse-back riding to hang-gliding, Jean Trollet completed the arduous journey in just 31 hours. (Reuters)

Kuwaiti lady sentenced: A Kuwaiti lady was sentenced by the Traffic Court to a one month imprisonment and fine of KD50. The lady, who was identified as S.M., was charged of committing a number of traffic violations, a press release by the Interior Ministry Public Relations Department said yesterday. The ministry said that this is the first time a lady has been sentenced in jail for traffic violation in Kuwait. The court charged the lady of reckless driving, breaking speed limits, fleeing from the police patrol, refusal to give her driving licence and registration book in addition to violating public discipline rules.

New form of contraception: British scientists have developed a "revolutionary" new form of contraception that vaccinates women against pregnancy for up to two years, it was reported in London Sunday.

The vaccine works by covering the human egg in antibodies so that the male sperm cannot recognise the egg and fertilise it, the Observer newspaper said. (Kuna)

'Freedom for Bourguiba': Tunisia's main opposition party, the Movement of Socialist Democrats, has said the authorities were biding time to arrest and should let him go.

"He (Bourguiba) is under strict supervision and receives visits only from his family, some acquaintances and his doctors, only with advance permission from the authorities," the party said in this week's edition of its newspaper Al Mustaqbal. (Reuters)

Nepal's king fires nine ministers

7,000 rally to protest police shootings

KATMANDU, April 1, (Agencies): King Birendra announced major changes in the government, which was split by widespread pro-democracy protests and demonstrations against police killing and wounding protesters in the Himalayan kingdom.

An estimated 7,000 demonstrators armed with sticks, knives, and other homemade weapons took to the streets of the capital today to protest the police shootings, which have claimed at least 16 lives since the protest began Feb 18.

A similar-size crowd shouting, "we will retaliate murder with murder," demonstrated yesterday in the capital. Police again fired on the protesters, wounding at least four, and made dozens of arrests, witnesses said.

Several thousand medical professionals went on strike throughout the Katmandu valley today to protest the detention of nine doctors and nurses and to denounce police firing at demonstrators and arrests of protesters.

Doctors and nurses went on strike today to protest the arrests of medical professionals but called off their action after the government agreed to release those detained. They said today the government reneged on its promise.

The government also announced it was closing all schools in and around Katmandu following a series of violent clashes on campuses in recent days between student activists and police.

Harvard-educated King Birendra fired nine government ministers today but said he was retaining Manich Man Singh as prime minister. He named Soviet-trained engineer Hari Bahadur Busneyt as foreign minister to replace Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, who resigned on Friday in protest against police firing on protesters in the capital's suburb of Patan, killing two.

At least 14 others have been killed in violent pro-democracy demonstrations since the movement was started Feb 18 by opposition members.

Thousands of people spent last night outdoors and set up roadblocks to prevent police vehicles from entering the city center to carry out more arrests.

Temple bells rang throughout the night to warn residents of approaching policemen but there was no violence reported.



Demonstrators rush their injured fellow demonstrator to hospital after riot police opened fire on them March 30 in Patan, Nepal. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ramadan timings

Break 4:06 am
Iftar 6:07 pm

DAY BY DAY

THE GCC states are supposed to be open to its citizens to freely work and move without any restrictions.

Unfortunately, this is not the scenario, though they can move freely in foreign countries.

Why can we not open our doors and appreciate the positive developments in the city of Dubai in the UAE where there are no hurdles and complete freedom of movement alongside free enterprise.

Here, we maintain that the Dubai experiment is subject to collapse, though for the past 30 years, Dubai has been maintaining free enterprise without complications. Basically, Dubai applies the theory: "Work wherever and with whatever you can and also take whatever you can."

Zahed Matar

3 die in plane crash

Missing German found dead

Hans Maich-77-was found dead at a riven ravine in the area and his body was picked up by a Jordanian helicopter, a statement said.

The heavily-guarded rebel leader spoke to 15 reporters for about an hour at a house in Nallur in the northern Jaffna peninsula — part of his group's campaign for a separatist state.

When Premadasa took over from Jayewardene in 1989 he asked the Indians to leave and began talks with the LTTE.

Three dead in Kashmir unrest

Muslim militants had called for all commercial activity to stop and residents to remain indoors.

UK revolt against tax

Thatcher blames marxist agitators

100

1. *Phragmites* spp. (Poaceae)

South Korean opposition leader demands new elections

January when Kim Young-Sam and Kim Jong-Pil, formerly government foes, joined President Roh Tae-Woo to inaugurate the

against the 1988 Parliament election result favouring opposition control.

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An Emu chick stares at the camera on the Kalaya Emu farm in central western Australia. 'Emus are the dumbest animals put on this planet,' claims Steven Hawker, one of Australia's first Emu farmers. Fully grown birds will yield 15 kilos of meat, a square metre of leather and five litres of oil. (Peter Wirophoto)

Bingo Day 14
55 24 53 33

But Thatcher accused Labour of sticking to outmoded socialist policies while the rest of Europe has been shaking off the

"sleeping sickness of socialism."



Street entertainer

An elderly man, wearing a pirate hat and glasses with eyes painted on them, makes laces for afternoon shoppers in central West Berlin on Friday. The street entertainer apparently was very popular and made plenty of money in a short time. (Reuter wirephoto)

US holds census for the 21st time

WASHINGTON, April 1, (AP): Americans are being asked to sit down, take out a pencil and count themselves today.

It's the 21st time the United States has taken its own measure. "Our goal for the 1990 census is to count every person resident in the United States," said Thomas Murkin, deputy secretary of commerce. "We are ready and confident."

The national count isn't just a case of idle curiosity on the part of the US government.

The constitution requires a count every 10 years to reassign seats in the House of Representatives, one of two chambers of Congress. States are represented according to population in the house, while the other chamber, the Senate has two members from each state.

Other information collected is used to determine the need for many social programmes and to decide which states, cities and towns most need federal money.

"In many respects the census is an index to our quality of life," said John Keane of Notre Dame University, former head of the census bureau. "The census shows us anew where our nation hurts and needs help."

"The census shows us anew where our nation hurts and needs help," said John Keane of Notre Dame University, former head of the census bureau. "The census shows us anew where our nation hurts and needs help."

Census forms were sent to about 85 million homes 10 days ago, and government workers will visit millions more where mailing lists were not available.

Although today is officially designated as Census Day, many people completed their forms and sent them in ahead of time.

Clocks set an hour ahead in US

WASHINGTON, April 1, (UPI): Clocks in much of the United States will "spring forward" by one hour at 2 am on the first day of April, depriving people of an hour of sleep and plunging the nation into daylight-saving time.

The clocks "fall back" one hour at 2.00 am local time on the last Sunday of October.

Only Hawaii, Arizona, eastern Indiana, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and American Samoa are excluded from the change.

The idea of juggling the hour hand to compensate for the seasonal change in the amount of daylight in the temperate zone can be traced to Benjamin Franklin, who recommended that shops be opened and closed earlier during summer months.

Audiences grumble More 'telly' for Britons

LONDON, April 1, (AP): When there were only four television channels in Britain, watching "telly" was the country's favourite past-time and viewers boasted that British programmes were the best in the world.

Now that government deregulation is bringing a smorgasbord of conventional and satellite TV channels to British homes, studies show audiences have dropped by 10 per cent. And half of those still watching, grumble about the programming.

It's a paradox that is troubling an industry in upheaval as the latest target of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's sell-off of state-owned or regulated enterprises.

Until last year when publisher Rupert Murdoch introduced satellite television to Britain, television was neatly carved among four networks—two run by the state-funded British Broadcasting Corp. and two by private companies.

Now, legislation before the House of Commons calls for auctioning off all the commercial television franchises and the creation of a fifth land-based television channel.

It is the most radical overhaul since commercial networks were first allowed to compete with the venerable BBC in 1955.

Meanwhile, a private consortium is about to launch Britain's second satellite TV network, British Satellite Broadcasting, to compete with Murdoch's money-losing Sky Television.

All that's missing are the viewers.

Britons still watch an average of 25 hours and 21 minutes of television every week. But that's a 10-per cent drop from five years ago, despite the arrival of overnight television in 1987 and then Sky.

"Some of this (drop) is attributable to video, but the same period saw a considerable increase in alternative leisure activities—taking two or more holidays, eating out," said Barry Cox, director of London Weekend Television.

Bernard Bennett, LWT's controller of research, thinks "the existing cake will have to be

carved up in a larger number of portions" to accommodate the new channels.

First on the air will be British Satellite Broadcasting, the international consortium awarded the government franchise to use the five satellite channels allocated to Britain under an international treaty.

The consortium—backed by £1.3 billion (\$2 billion)—is the second-largest private sector investment project in Britain after Eurotunnel, the tunnel being dug under the English channel between England and France.

The five BSB channels, including a movie channel, will go head to head beginning April 29 with the four channels of Sky Television. Sky is already losing £2 million (\$3.2 million) a week.

"Neither of us has any clue whether there's a room for one or two," admitted BSB spokesman Edward Bickham.

"On a financial basis, we have the ability to spread the risks of the project across a number of major companies. No one has to bet their business on BSB."

Referring to an industry study showing 44 per cent of viewers saying they find nothing appealing when they want to watch television, Bickham said, "We believe there's a lot of room for extra choice."

"We're not trying to take over the market from the (four existing) generalist channels, but offering a complimentary service," he added.

BSB expects to be in just over 1 million of Britain's 22 million homes by the end of the year and in 3 million homes, the break-even point, by the end of 1991.

Channel 5, the proposed new land-based commercial channel, will probably not begin broadcasting until the mid-1990s because of a dispute over the type of transmission system. Even then, it will reach only 70 per cent of households, and all their video recorders will have to be returned to avoid interference.

At present the BBC carries no advertisements and the two commercial networks do. There are 15 regional franchises awarded to companies that broadcast on the commercial networks.

Soviet defector gives up

NORTH FORT MYERS, Florida, April 1, (AP): A Soviet defector whose family joined him in the United States last year after a nine-year struggle allegedly shot and killed his wife and one daughter and wounded another daughter, police say.

Valentin Bereza, 38, fled to Tennessee after the shootings Thursday night and surrendered Saturday morning to police in Nashville, police said. Nashville homicide detective Walter Keeler Jr said Bereza was being held for Florida police on a fugitive warrant.

Bereza is charged with the premeditated shooting deaths of his wife, Raisa Bereza, 33, and daughter, Elena, 30, as well as the premeditated attempted murder of his second daughter, Tonya, 17, the sheriff's office in Lee County, Fla., said yesterday.

Officers in North Fort Myers said Raisa and Elena Bereza died of gunshot to the head from a large-calibre handgun. Tonya Bereza was in fair condition in a hospital recovering from a gunshot to the face.

Kathleen Turner returns to Broadway

'I love the exactness of film but theatre is so exciting'

PITTSBURGH, April 1, (Reuter) Film star Kathleen Turner is proud of the work she's done in the theatre, but, unlike many actresses, she won't express a preference for stage or screen.

"I don't prefer either, I want both," she said in a recent interview. "I love the exactness of film, that you can be so incredibly precise. On stage, you must be less specific."

On the other hand, Turner said she thrived on theatre's opportunity to work before an audience. "The experience is so supportive, and so exciting."

Turner was in Pittsburgh on a pre-Broadway tour with 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof' Tennessee Williams' tale of love, sickness, sexuality and frustration, which opened in New York last month for a limited run.

Turner is playing Maggie, the sexy young wife fighting to regain the

romantic interest of her husband.

The character is marked by a frustrated, bitchy side, but Turner says she also tries to emphasise Maggie's humour.

"It's quite delightful to play her. I like the level of aliveness I have with her," the 35-year-old actress said.

Already known as a sizzling leading lady in film since starring in the 1981 hit 'Body Heat', Turner said she had wanted to play Maggie since she was a girl. But she stressed that there's a lot more to Kathleen Turner than the steamy parts she's played.

"I don't identify with any role," she said. "It's acting, really, truly it is."

"I'm not like that at home," said Turner, a happily married mother whose desire to stay close to her family is reportedly the reason the show's pre-

Broadway tour was limited to four east coast cities.

As well as playing the seductress in 'Body Heat', Turner's film work has included a string of hits—'Prizzi's Honour', 'Peggy Sue Got Married', 'The Accidental Tourist', and a trio of films with Michael Douglas, 'Romancing the Stone', 'Jewel of the Nile', and most recently 'The War of the Roses'.

Before her screen break in 'Body Heat', Turner worked both in regional theatre and on Broadway.

The actress also put her unmistakable, husky vocals to good use in the 1988 hit film 'Who Framed Roger Rabbit', providing the voice of Jessica Rabbit, the film's sexy cartoon star.

The tall blonde actress said of her most famous roles: "It's fun to play these women, with power and intelligence."

She laughed when she was asked to name her favourite leading man.

"Daniel Hugh Kelly," she said, referring to the actor who plays Maggie's alienated, alcoholic husband Brick in 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof'.

Asked how he felt acting as foil to an actress like Turner, Kelly joked to turn. "I've quit drinking."

Besides Turner and Kelly, the production includes veteran movie and theatre actor Charles Durning as big daddy, Brick's father and the family's dying patriarch, and Polly Holliday, best known as a television actress, as big mama, big daddy's wife.

Turner said she was committed to 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof' on Broadway until mid-July, but wouldn't discuss her future plans.

"I can't tell you," she said, leaning back and pulling her hair up into the air.

Vaccine not the answer for Aids

PARIS, April 1, (Reuter): The Frenchman who discovered the killer Aids virus says a vaccine could be ready in a few years but he doubts if it will be the magic answer the world is waiting for.

Luc Montagnier believes Aids can best be contained by a combination of prevention and treatment of patients already infected with the virus.

"Vaccine is a magic word. We mustn't delude ourselves... it's very important to have a policy for preventing infection but also to prevent the illness in those already infected," he said.

In an interview last week in his office at the Pasteur Institute, Montagnier, a cheerful, soft-spoken man, said scientists were close to producing a vaccine against Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

"The scientific community almost has the formula," he said. "But we still have to test it on chimpanzees so we won't have a human vaccine for four or five years."

The Pasteur Institute, named after Louis Pasteur who discovered the rabies vaccine in 1885, specialises in vaccine research.

Montagnier would give no details of his current work but he said research should focus on developing a treatment for Aids-infected patients in whose bodies the virus is dormant.

What were needed were medicines to help such patients fight off the disease, he said.

"There is a difference between a vaccine to protect uninfected people and medicines to lighten the immunity of those already infected... we can presume that all seropositive (people infected with the Aids virus) would follow a treatment individually suited to each patient," he said.

"It would cost a lot of money but probably less than the actual cost of Aids in human lives," he said.

Rejecting the popular idea that Aids can be compared with the plague which killed a third of the European population in the 15th century, Montagnier said it was far less deadly.

"It's dangerous to say Aids is like the plague. It is more like syphilis in the 16th century—a sexually transmitted disease that erupted because of a change in behaviour patterns."

"The virus has been around a long time but in itself it is not that nasty."

Montagnier, whose research team at Pasteur isolated the Aids virus in 1983, believes scientists need to learn more about the mechanisms of the illness before they can suggest an effective treatment.

"Discovery of the virus is important but it just isn't all there is to Aids," he said, stressing that hygiene played a major role in containing the disease. "The virus has probably existed for a long time... the epidemic appeared almost simultaneously in Africa and North America but it developed much faster in Africa."

"We have to think of co-factors transmitted in a tropical atmosphere and in countries where the most elementary rules of hygiene are not respected. If rules of prevention were followed, Aids would be eradicated," he said.

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PEOPLE AND PLACES

ANCONA, Italy: A Milan dancer has been jailed for 30 years for killing a catamaran owner with a machete so he could sail to the south seas with his Dutch girlfriend.

An Italian court on Friday sentenced Filippo de Cristofaro, 36, for the murder of Annalisa Curina, 31, in July 1988. He received a concurrent eight-year sentence for stealing her boat and trying to dispose of her body.

De Cristofaro's Dutch friend, Pieter Groenendijk, was sentenced in his absence to three years for stealing the boat.

An investigation revealed that De Cristofaro and his 17-year-old Dutch girlfriend Diane Beyer had rented the catamaran from Curina, who accompanied them on a Mediterranean cruise.

The prosecution said De Cristofaro planned the murder so he could sail to the south seas with Beyer. Curina's body was thrown overboard but later recovered by a trawler. (Reuter)

PARIS: A strike by technicians forced management at the Opera-Bastille to scrap a performance of 'The Trojans' on Saturday, the first cancellation at the ultramodern opera house since it opened two weeks ago.

Administrator George-Francois Hirsch told spectators who had paid from 40 to 370 francs (\$6.50 to 60) for a ticket to the sold-out performance of Hector Berlioz' epic that they would be reimbursed.

The technicians, striking for more money and better working conditions, walked off the job Saturday morning. The next day's scheduled performance of the six-hour opera is Tuesday.

The Glass and Tile Structure opened last July, but the first opera wasn't performed until March 17. Critics generally praised Korean conductor Myung-Woon Chung's direction and the facility's acoustical capabilities. (AP)

NEWCASTLE, Australia: The festivities came three months late, but the earthquake-hit city of Newcastle finally celebrated New Year's Eve.

The industrial city of 500,000 about 100 miles (160 km) north of Sydney was hit Dec 28 by an earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale, killing 12 people and destroying many of the downtown buildings. Nine of the 12 victims died when the Newcastle Workers' Club collapsed, while others in the club were rescued after they were trapped on the rubble.

Most of the New Year's Eve celebrations in the city were cancelled as a result, but city officials decided to have a "re-birth" of the city on the March 31-April 1 weekend.

Hundreds of locals turned out Saturday night for several blatted New Year's Eve parties hosted by hotels, nightclubs and restaurants in the New South Wales state coastal city. (AP)



Protest death penalty

Janice Gay of Marine county, whose husband is on San Quentin's death row, carries a makeshift coffin over the Golden Gate Bridge on March 31, in protest of the death penalty in California. The protest by 100 people was in response to the scheduled execution of Robert Alton Harris which has been postponed by a stay of execution.

After years of appeals, Harris, 37, was scheduled to die in the gas chamber on Tuesday for the kidnapping and murders of two San Diego teenagers in July 1976.

But a federal appeals court on Friday stayed the execution. Judge John Noonan of the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that a lower court improperly refused to hold

a fact-finding hearing at the time of his original trial in 1979.

The state immediately appealed the ruling. "If Robert Harris had been deprived of his constitutional rights in some way... then I would agree that further delay would be fair and reasonable," Van de Kamp told a news conference on Saturday. "But Harris has received a fair trial and the most painstaking federal review."

A spokesman for the high court confirmed the appeal had been filed but declined to comment on whether or when the justices would consider it. (Reuter wirephoto)

Heroin Nigerian held

DHAKA, April 1, (Reuter): Bangladesh narcotics agents burst into the hotel room of a Nigerian conductor Monday and seized heroin worth \$2 million, police said today.

They said the Nigerian, Innocent Novusi Egunmie, was arrested soon after the agents recovered three kg (six pounds, nine ounces) of heroin from under his bed.

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio: The fall of communism in East and Central Europe resulted more from envy of Western popular culture than from a political philosophy, a popular culture expert said.

Ray Browne, chairman of Bowling Green State University's popular culture department, links the demise of communism to "envious eyes and rumbling stomachs."

He said television revealed a cornucopia of goods and services, people in the East bloc never had. Even the arrival of McDonald's in Moscow provided a symbol of convenience, access, and other

World's first Baby born to Aids mother

COLOMBO, April 1, (Kuna): Probably the world's first baby to an Aids-infected woman was born to Sri Lanka today.

A 27-year-old Muslim gave birth to a boy weighing six pounds in normal delivery at 0621 hours (local time) at the Castle Street Maternity Hospital in Colombo.

Piyasena Pathirana, the secretary of the hospital, said both the mother and the baby were fine.

But, the baby is being examined to verify whether he, too, is infected with the Aids virus like his mother.

Three doctors attended on her when she delivered the baby. They are the hospital's director Dr D. Amerasinghe, Dr (Mrs) M. A. Beyerwardena and Dr Upali Marasinghe, according to Pathirana.

consumer advantages denied to the masses.

The result, Browne said recently, was a demand for a piece of the same action.

He predicted that popular culture studies will become more influential throughout the 1990s. (UPI)

KUALA LUMPUR: Police have set up a special team to track down the elusive "factory girl stalker" responsible for raping six women in the Malaysian industrial zone of Shah Alam in the last six months.

A police spokesman said on Sunday every police personnel, including senior officers in the

Selangor state had been briefed on the case.

"Almost everyone can be considered to be working on the case which has been given top priority," he said.

The spokesman added each policeman in the state had been issued with a sketch of the man, the most publicised rapist.

The sketch was drawn by police artists after the fourth girl was raped. The man, who police described as "good-looking and glib-tongued" first struck last November.

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INTERNATIONAL

Delay in talks a setback to Klerk

JOHANNESBURG, April 1. (AP) The decision of the African National Congress to postpone talks with the government on dismantling apartheid is being widely viewed as a serious setback for President F.W. de Klerk.

The ANC said it was taking the step yesterday because police shootings of black protesters have soured the climate for black-white talks.

De Klerk, while expressing regret over the violence, has urged the ANC to reconsider its postponement.

"I cannot agree that such criticism should stand in the way of discussions, especially if those discussions can contribute to the avoidance of such incidents in the future," he told a meeting in the Transvaal town of Naboomspruit.

Democratic Party co-leader Zach de Beer said: "While the shooting in Sebokeng was a deplorable episode, it can be no excuse for breaking off talks."

He added: "Without negotiations for a new constitution, the prospects for our country are extremely bleak. One can only express the heartfelt hope that the ANC will think again, and quickly too."

Nelson Mandela, the ANC's deputy president, told tens of thousands of supporters that an April 11 meeting with the government was put on hold indefinitely because "state violence against our people still continues."

He cited excessive police force against protesters on Monday that left at least nine blacks dead and more than 400 injured in Sebokeng. Police said they opened fire after protesters stoned a police station in the township near Johannesburg and set fire to municipal buildings.

"If the government talks about negotiations on the one hand and massacres of our people on the other hand, we cannot tolerate that," Mandela said at a packed sports stadium in the southern city of Bishop, capital of the nominally independent Ciskei homeland.

"The conditions for the (ANC's) armed struggle still prevail," he added.

Mandela said he acted on instructions from exiled ANC leaders in Lusaka, Zambia, when he called De Klerk on Friday to tell him of the postponement.

He did not say what it would take to reschedule the talks, which have been hailed as a groundbreaking effort to clear the way for extending political rights to the country's 28 million black majority.

The Cabinet Minister for Black Affairs, Constitutional Development, Gerrit Viljoen, said the white-led government was "giving attention to the announcement's implications." He did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, De Klerk said he was awaiting a full report on the violence. But he said the deaths should not be used to derail the proposed talks between black leader and the government.

De Klerk says he wants equal voting rights for all South Africans. But he opposes outright black majority rule and envisions a mechanism that will give the country's 5 million whites veto power on major policy decisions.

The ANC wants a one-person, one-vote democracy.

Mandela, released from 27 years of imprisonment Feb 11, is the effective head of the ANC while President Oliver Tambo recovers from a stroke in Sweden. But events of the past two days suggest he may not have the freedom to pursue his initiatives without the approval of younger, more militant ANC leaders.

In Lusaka, the ANC said it would hold a meeting within five days to review developments in South Africa.

The first direct peace talks between the Frelimo government and Mozambican national resistance rebels have been postponed because the two sides cannot agree on a venue, a newspaper reported yesterday in Lisbon, Portugal.

The respected Libson weekly Expresso said the talks slated for the first two weeks in April were postponed after the Renamo rebels rejected the government-proposed venue of Malawi. It said the rebels offered to meet in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi.

The government rejected Nairobi, the newspaper reported. The two sides also were unable to agree on an agenda, Expresso said. It said some members of the ruling Frelimo Party supported continued military action against the rebels.



Seven US soldiers were injured when their bus was attacked by suspected leftist guerrillas in Honduras. At left, an injured soldier is put onto a medical helicopter amid heavy security. At right, one of the



wounded soldiers is helped by others as he boards the medical helicopter. (Reuter wirephoto)

Seven wounded in Honduran raid

Snipers attack US airmen

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras April 1 (AP) Snipers fired automatic weapons at a bus carrying 28 US airmen along a mountain road yesterday, and seven soldiers were wounded, two seriously, US officials said.

An anonymous caller to the private radio network radio America claimed responsibility on behalf of the leftist Morazan National Liberation Front.

US embassy spokesman Terrence Kneebone said US government personnel in Honduras had been on a precautionary alert ahead of the second anniversary this week of the burning of the US consulate in Tegucigalpa to protest the extradition of an alleged drug kingpin.

Three attackers fired on the bus six miles (10 kilometres) north of Tegucigalpa, the capital, said Maj. Bruce Jessup, a spokesman for US troops based in the Central American

nation. "The Americans did not have time to return fire, although there were some security personnel on the bus," he said.

Kneebone said that seven soldiers were wounded. He said one soldier shot in the head was in critical condition, and another wounded in the stomach was in "delicate condition."

Kneebone said the other five injured soldiers were out of danger.

He said four of the five were evacuated by air last night to the US Southern Command in Panama, "where they have better treatment facilities at Gorgas hospital than in Soto Cano."

"All five are out of danger. In fact, they walked out of the hospital after receiving first aid treatment earlier in the day," he said.

Jessup said the servicemen are members of

the US Air Force, but he refused to identify them by unit or release the names of the injured.

Asked how he knew there were three attackers, Jessup said the US soldiers had seen them as they fled.

A White House spokesman, Sean Walsh, said in Washington: "We deplore any action against US citizens. We'll be working closely with the Honduran government on the investigation."

The Morazan Front, founded in 1979, is thought to be an arm of the Communist Party. The group takes its name from Gen. Francisco Morazan, a former president of Honduras.

It claimed responsibility for the last major attack on US forces in Honduras, on July 13, 1989, when a homemade bomb was thrown at nine US army military policemen.

Tiananmen closed

Dissidents call for protest

BEIJING, April 1. (AP) Thousands of yellow-capped schoolchildren marched on Tiananmen Square today morning, but police barred the general public from entering on a day when dissidents had called for silent protest on the square.

The children were bused in to attend ceremonies marking civic efforts to plant trees and flowers for the Asian games to be held in Beijing next September. Many waved the red flags of the Young Pioneers, a group for teaching social and ideological values.

Other activists to take a "protest stroll" on the square on April 1 and April 5 to mourn those killed last year.

April 5 is the Qingming festival, the annual day when Chinese honour their dead. On Qingming in 1976, thousands of Chinese carried wreaths and flowers to Tiananmen to honour Chou En-Lai, the beloved premier who died that January, and indirectly protest the ultra-leftist policies of the government.

The brutal suppression of that spontaneous show of defiance in what is now called the first Tiananmen incident led to the eventual overthrow of the leftist "gang of four."

Organised demonstrations are banned, and the "stroll" was proposed to avoid the certain arrests of those participating in any public protests against the repressive policies of the current hardline government of premier Li Peng.

Chinese sources say Communist Party officials in their work units are warning them to stay away from Tiananmen Square, the symbolic political centre of China. There were stepped up police patrols around the square Saturday night, and police or soldiers today manned rooftop lookouts around the square.

General Alejandro Galido said the American identified himself as Harold Magle and passed himself off as a close friend of Platt's.

"Anyone could drop my name," Platt said, dismissing the report as "a non-story."

Platt, who talked to reporters at a diplomatic reception on Friday night, denied he had any connection with an American implicated by a Philippine general in the December army revolt.

The bases talks were to have been held last December but were postponed because of the mutiny, the sixth and most serious coup Aquino has faced in her four years in office.

Re-set for February, they were again postponed to April after Philippine officials said they were not ready.

No official reasons have been given for the latest postponement. The United States is seeking an extension of its lease on Clark Air Base, Subic Naval Base and four smaller facilities in the Philippines. The lease expires in 1991.

The talks had been soured by Manila's charges that the United States had failed to live up to its aid commitments and allegations of involvement by a US air force colonel in the December coup.

A Philippine general who claimed to have infiltrated Army rebel ranks had alleged in an affidavit that the US officer offered to supply anti-tank missiles and other weapons to the coup plotters.

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The usual crowd of Sunday visitors to the Square, mainly Chinese tourists from outside Beijing, were kept behind police lines on the outskirts of the 40-hectare (100-acre) Plaza.

There were no signs of any attempts to mark the military assault on the student-held square last June 4 that left hundreds and perhaps thousands of people dead on the streets of Beijing and ended the seven-week-long pro-democracy movement. Campuses in the northwest corner of the city were reportedly quiet.

Overseas dissident groups have urged students

Philippines bases talks

New delays

MANILA, April 1. (Reuter) Talks on the future of US military bases in the Philippines, already twice postponed, face new delays amid charges that an American was involved in last December's Army coup attempt against President Corason Aquino.

US ambassador Nicholas Platt said the talks would not take place as scheduled in mid-April but declined to elaborate, saying only that "we need a little more time."

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Mugabe emerges as victor

Dissidents call for protest

HARARE, Zimbabwe, April 1. (AP) President Robert Mugabe failed to realise his dream of a one-party state when three opposition members captured seats in parliamentary elections, according to partial returns late today.

"It's a bitter blow," said an unidentified spokesman for Mugabe's governing Marxist-Leninist Zimbabwe African National Union. "Yet it could have been worse."

Officials said 80 of 120 contested seats for the 150-member Parliament had been counted by midnight (2200 GMT Saturday), and final results were expected to be announced later today.

However, Mugabe clearly emerged as the presidential victor. His first challenger ever, Edgar Tekere, gained only 365,149 votes, or 17.3 per cent, with returns counted in 106 districts.

Tekere's fledgling opposition party, campaigning for similar political reforms to those in Eastern Europe, captured more votes than most analysts expected.

In the voting, held Wednesday through Friday, Tekere's Zimbabwe Unity Movement won a third of the ballots, capturing two parliamentary seats, according to election officials.

The candidate of the Zimbabwe African National Union, or Zanu, gained a third seat. The union represents the founder of the governing party, the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole.

A Methodist minister, Sithole has been living in exile in the United States for several years, accused by security agents at home of plotting to topple Mugabe's government.

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America

Bus driver shot: The driver of a bus with operating links to the strike-plagued Greyhound Lines Inc. was shot by a passing motorist on a highway late Saturday, authorities said.

The driver was taken by helicopter to a hospital, but his injuries did not appear life-threatening, hospital spokesman Wayne Wood said.

No passengers were injured. Greyhound spokesman George Gravley said.

Gravley described the bus as belonging to an independent company but operating on a Greyhound route with Greyhound passengers. (AP)

Mom has one twin, other delayed: A 24-year-old woman who was expecting twins in July has delivered one baby, but will have to wait on the other.

In a rare birth doctors say was one of just 14 cases reported nationally, Donna Krasenics delivered a 1.5-pound (.68 kilogramme) baby girl, Shakoora, at Crawford Long Hospital on Thursday. 15 weeks prematurely.

Shakoora was listed in critical condition in Crawford Long's Intensive Care Unit Saturday. Her mother was in good condition.

Doctors were able to stop Mrs Krasenics' labour with the second baby, and hospital officials said she will remain in bed until her second child is delivered. (AP)

Club fire victims flown home: The bodies of 30 of the 57 people killed in a fire at an illegal social club were loaded onto a cargo plane at Kennedy Airport on Saturday for a late-night flight to Honduras, a nation in mourning.

At a brief memorial service in the huge hangar to which the caskets had come, some in hearses, others stacked on flatbed trucks, Deputy Mayor Bill Lynch said New York City would "do all possible to make sure this will never happen again."

"These young people came to this great city of ours seeking hope and opportunity, and now they leave like this," Lynch said, gesturing toward the long row of caskets. "The bodies lying here before us say we've got to do more. We've got to do more to make sure this doesn't happen again." (AP)

Fuel spill threatens water supplies: A landslide-damaged petroleum pipeline sent an 8-mile-long (12.8 kilometre-long) slick down the Allegheny River on Saturday, in Freeport Pennsylvania threatening water supplies for more than 100,000 people, authorities said.

Fumes from the spill forced the evacuation of 100 people. Heavy rain Friday apparently caused the landslide that cracked the pipeline the same day, said Ray Haase Jr of Buckeye Pipeline Co.

About 7,500 gallons of a 50-50 mixture of diesel and heating oil leaked into Knapp Run Creek, then flowed into the Allegheny about five miles north of Freeport, said Haase. The creek joins the Allegheny about 30 miles (48 kilometres) north of Pittsburgh. (AP)

Military copter shot: Police tried to negotiate their way onto a Mohawk Indian settlement where they believe shots were fired at a military helicopter, but Indian leaders have insisted no outsiders would set foot on their land.

Both sides patrolled blockades Saturday on the four roads leading into the Ganienkeh Mohawk territory near the Canadian border. State police set up the roadblocks Friday after a Vermont National Guard helicopter on an emergency medical flight was hit by three bullets, forcing it to land in a field on Indian land.

A civilian doctor suffered a gunshot wound in the right arm, and was listed in good condition. (UPI)

Nasa moves up launch date: The US space agency, in a rare move, advanced the launch date Saturday for the shuttle Discovery and its prestigious payload, the \$1.5 billion Hubble space telescope.

Discovery now is due to lift off April 10, two days earlier than planned. "The shuttle team is ready to fly. Hubble is one of the most exciting payloads ever launched aboard the shuttle, and we're looking forward to the mission," said William Lenoir, associate administrator for space flight for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The space agency's flight readiness review board decided to move up the mission after meeting for two days at Kennedy Space Centre. (AP)

Reagan comment triggered probes: Former Gov. Tony Anaya said Saturday in Albuquerque that his calling then-President Ronald Reagan anti-Hispanic during the early 1980s probably triggered series of federal investigations into Anaya's administration.

The prominent Hispanic Democrat, addressing a workshop at the National Association for Chicano Studies annual conference, said he made the comment on an economic trip to Mexico in 1983 or 1984.

Anaya, New Mexico's governor from 1983 to 1986, was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the US Attorney's Office in Albuquerque and the Internal Revenue Service. No charges were ever filed against him. (AP)

UK lifts exclusion zone: Britain lifted its military exclusion zone around the Falkland Islands on Saturday, in the latest sign of improving relations with Argentina after the 1982 war over the remote south Atlantic territory.

A British Foreign Office spokesman said the zone, banning all Argentine ships and aircraft from within 150 miles of the islands, was replaced by arrangements agreed by London and Buenos Aires in Madrid in February, when full diplomatic relations were restored.

Argentina, which claims sovereignty over the islands it calls the Malvinas, had pressed for the removal of the exclusion zone which it saw as a vestige of the Falklands war. (Reuter)

NEWS IN BRIEF



Webber's new musical

Andrew Lloyd Webber appears with his wife Sarah Brightman backstage after the performance of 'Aspects of Love'. Webber's new musical at the Broadhurst Theatre in New York on March 31. (Reuter wirephoto)

Contras begin disarm: Some Nicaraguan Contra rebels based in Honduras have begun surrendering their arms to the Honduran military, a presidential aide said on Saturday.

The announcement did not affect the thousands of rebels who have left the camps in Honduras and crossed into Nicaragua. Terms for their disarmament is on the agenda at a Central American summit starting on Monday.

"At this moment the armed forces are receiving the arms," Gilberto Goldstein, personal secretary to President Rafael Callejas, told Reuters. (Reuters)

4 Contra rebels killed: Four Contra rebels were killed and eight Sandinista government soldiers wounded in two clashes in northern Nicaragua, the Defence Ministry said on Saturday.

The ministry said over 100 rebels on Thursday launched an attack on a Sandinista Army base in Jinotega province on Nicaragua's border with Honduras. Four rebels were killed in the attack and five government troops wounded, it said.

In a separate incident, 60 rebels attacked a farming co-operative on Friday in Esteli province, also in the north, and three members of a Sandinista defence unit were wounded, the ministry said. (Reuters)

TV-Marti stops telecasts: The United States ceased beaming Spanish language TV Marti test telecasts to Cuba Saturday morning, the official Cuban News Agency Prensa Latina said.

Prensa Latina, monitored in Mexico City, quoted an official Cuban source as saying that the TV-Marti signal, started on a test basis earlier in the week, was not received Saturday.

"The so-called TV-Marti was absent, but the reasons are still unknown," Prensa Latina said. "It could not be immediately confirmed in Washington whether the telecasts had been cut off Saturday morning. (UPI)

Maot rebels open fire: Titled Maot guerrillas opened fire Saturday on supporters of presidential candidate Mario Vargas Llosa at his local campaign headquarters in the Andean city of La Oroya, killing one and wounding 13, police said.

The Shining Path guerrilla organisation has hunted dozens of attacks this week in an effort to sabotage the April 8 general elections. The rebels have threatened to kill anyone who votes.

Vargas Llosa, a novelist, is the front-running candidate for president. (AP)

Priest jailed for seditious diary: A Kenyan priest was jailed for six years for writing unspecified seditious material in a desk diary, local newspapers reported Saturday in Nairobi. His prosecutor alleged church groups in and outside Kenya were plotting to undermine the government.

The Rev. Lawrence Ndege Intumba of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa pleaded guilty to the charges of writing documents, the prosecutor described as "highly seditious and aimed at destabilising the government," the Daily Standard said.

Deputy public prosecutor Bernard Chunga told the court Intumba, under police custody, also had acknowledged there were "churches and individuals channeling money to Kenya churches to destabilise the government."

"Some of the sermons delivered in those churches were part of an orchestrated move to undermine the Kenya Government," Chunga added. (UPI)

Liberia, Guinea deny: Liberia and Guinea denied on Saturday that Guinean troops were helping President Samuel Doe crush a rebellion which residents say is spreading.

The Liberian Government, which imposed censorship on news about the fighting on Friday, said there were no foreign troops in the country.

Rebel leader Charles Taylor told the British Broadcasting Corporation's Africa Service from an undisclosed location that his forces had killed and wounded about 100 Guinean soldiers in Liberia's northeastern Nimba County.

Guinea, which has a defence pact with its southern neighbour, denied Taylor's claim in a statement issued in the capital Conakry. (Reuter)

Drug lords threaten bombing campaign

BOGOTA, April 1. (Reuter) Colombia's drug traffickers threatened yesterday to place a 5,000 kg (11,000-lb) bomb in the capital every time one of their members was extradited to the United States.

The group of traffickers known as the "Extraditables" also threatened in a statement to plant a similar bomb unless police freed two residents of the town of Medellin it said had been detained.

Some 200 people have been killed in a campaign of bombings and assassinations begun by the drug traffickers last August after Colombian authorities declared a state of emergency and began extraditing suspected traffickers to the United States to face trial.

Colombia is the chief source of illegal cocaine for the United States.

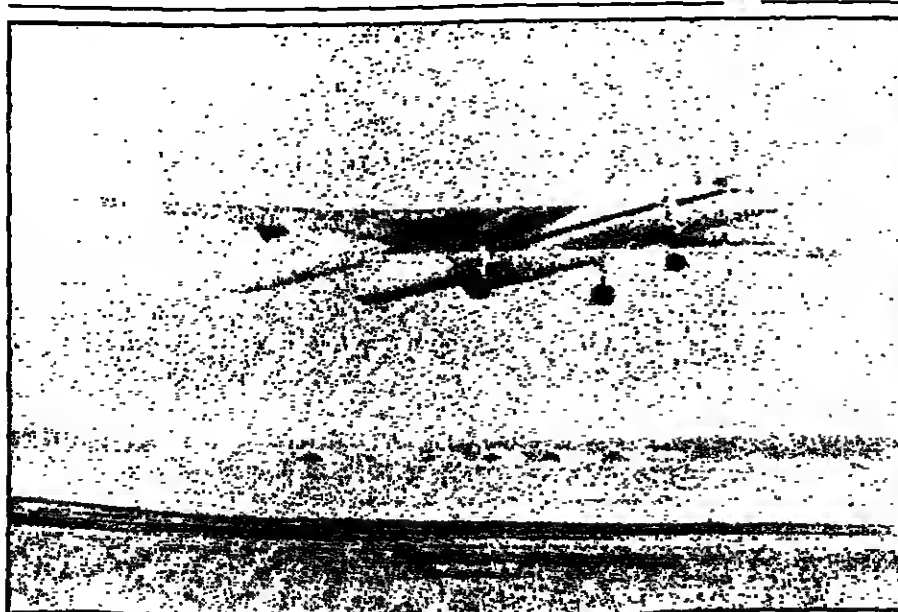
Violence has calmed down since January when the drug

traffickers offered to quit the cocaine trade in return for guarantees from the government. But Saturday's threats indicated the drug barons appear to be ready to restart the war.

In their statement, the drug traffickers also threatened to execute judges, politicians, torturers and members of the Colombian family, who own the Espectador newspaper, which has campaigned against the drug trade.

"For every Colombian handed over to the United States, we will place a bomb of 5,000 kg of dynamite in the capital of the republic," they said in a statement.

The traffickers made the threats three days after the Colombian government resumed its policy of extraditing drug-traffickers to face charges in the United States after a two-month pause.





Skull from a mass grave

A soldier of East German National People's Army (NVA) holds a skull which he dug out from a mass grave in a pine forest near the former Nazi concentration camp of Sachsenhausen on Friday. Local people say the mass grave could contain hundreds of Germans shot by Soviet troops after World War II. (Reuters wirephoto)

Elections in Romania Parties align

BUCHAREST, Romania, April 1, (AP): Three of Romania's leading opposition parties formed an alliance yesterday to compete in the May 20 general elections, the country's first free balloting in 43 years.

The alliance combines the centrist National Liberal Party, the Social Democrats and the National Peasants Party, which together dominated Romanian politics prior to the 1947 communist takeover.

Radu Campeanu, president of the centrist National Liberal Party, said the three parties would co-operate in an effort to win a majority in the elections and, if they were victorious, would consider forming a coalition government.

Other smaller parties with similar political platforms are welcome to join the alliance, he told a news conference. But Campeanu said he "could not see how a coalition government could ever be formed with the National Salvation Front," currently the dominant political force in Romania.

Campeanu also announced he would become the National Liberal Party's presidential candidate — and presumably the coalition's candidate — after complying with legal formalities.

"According to electoral laws, I will have to gather the signatures of 100,000 supporters to qualify for formal inclusion in the official list of candidates," he noted.

Campeanu said the alliance would "seek the presence of foreign observers to oversee the elections" and ensure fairness.

The coalition's main opposition is likely to be the National Salvation Front, which governed the country after communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was overthrown in December and still commands majority support, according to public opinion polls.

Greeks to go to polls third time in a year

Bid to break govt's deadlock

ATHENS, April 1, (AP): Against a backdrop of rising terrorism and dire warnings of economic doom, Greeks will go to the polls for a third time in a year in an effort to break the government's political deadlock.

But pollsters predict the April 8, national elections will end like the ones last June and November — with no party winning the right to govern the country already suffering from nearly a year of indecisiveness.

Weak coalition governments forged after the elections to June and November have been unable, or unwilling, to deal forcefully with questions of foreign, domestic and economic policy.

The European Economic Community says Greece is in danger of bankruptcy and says it will not bail out Athens because the country breached the austerity terms of a 1985 loan. Some Greek officials and economists fear the country may be forced to surrender some of its economic sovereignty and turn, for the first time, to the International Monetary Fund for help.

"Without a strong government, we are heading for economic disaster," said Stelios Argiros, president of the powerful federation of Greek industries. He said Greece needs a government strong enough to make necessary but unpopular decisions.

Greek premier fires intelligence chief

ATHENS, April 1, (AP): Premier Kostas Karamanlis fired Greece's intelligence chief yesterday following allegations that the intelligence agency was jamming the broadcasts of a leftist television station.

Zolotas summoned National Information Service chief Dimitris Angelopoulos to an emergency meeting yesterday after two intelligence agents were arrested Friday night and accused of jamming the Channel 29 TV station, which supports socialist candidates in next Sunday's general election.

Angelopoulos arrived at the meeting two hours late and was dismissed.

"The measure was judged necessary because

First Soviet non-communist party founded

MOSCOW, April 1, (UPI): The first non-communist party in Soviet history, the Liberal Democrats, was founded yesterday.

But a bevy of new parties, including monarchists and anarchists, is waiting in the wings in accordance with the March decision of the communists to abandon their monopoly on power.

A total of 215 delegates representing most of the 15 republics are attending the Congress of the Liberal Democratic Party of the Soviet Union.

"Its founders say this is the first nation-wide

Congress of a non-communist party in Soviet history," the official Tass news agency said.

It elected as its leader, a Moscow lawyer, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, 42, who said the party is against building any specific social system, favours private property and a market system instead of rigid Soviet central planning.

Non-communist parties ceased to exist in Russia in January 1918 after the founder of the Soviet state Vladimir Lenin banned all parties except his Bolshevik communists.

Although some members of the Czarist- and revolutionary-era parties, the Menshevik communists and social revolutionaries, lingered on after January 1918, they never again held a Congress.

Lenin's successor Josef Stalin physically liquidated the members of these parties.

But under Gorbachev's reforms, many of the exterminated parties have reappeared including the constitutional Democrats, or Kadets, as they

were called, the most liberal party in the history of the Russian empire and early post-revolutionary period.

But the most viable grouping appears to be the Social Democratic Association, which brought tens of thousands into streets of Moscow for a pro-democracy rally in early February. A second SDA-organised rally on Feb 25 put thousands more people onto the streets in a score of cities across the country despite an official scare campaign to warn participants off.

Armenian-Azeri fighting continues

Troops fail to stop clashes

MOSCOW, April 1, (Reuters): Soviet troops dispatched to separate warring Armenians and Azeris have failed to stamp out bloody clashes on the frontier between their two Soviet republics, journalists in the region said yesterday.

Detachments, rushed to the border on Friday from the Azerbaijan and Armenian capitals, succeeded in damping down the fighting, but not in stopping the shooting and cross-border raids, he said.

The Armenia and Azeri Press Agencies, contacted by telephone, said a number of people had been killed in the past few days, but reliable figures were unavailable.

At least 13 people were killed in the previous week.

Ethnic tension with Armenia dominated a plenary session of Azerbaijan's Communist Party leadership yesterday, the Soviet News Agency Tass said.

Fighting in the Nakhichevan enclave, sandwiched between Armenia and Turkey, and on other border points had worsened in the past few days with deaths and heavy economic damage, the meeting was told.

Armenpress said women and children had been evacuated from some Azeri villages near the border.

Le Pen chosen to head National

NICE, April 1, (AP): Jean-Marie Le Pen whipped his followers into a frenzy of applause and singing yesterday, promising them that their extreme-right National Front Party stands on the threshold of real political power.

The 1,600 delegates to the 8th party chose Le Pen by cheers and handclapping to lead the party from the sidelines of single-issue politics to what they hope will be victory in legislative elections in 1993.

"If I advance, follow me; if I die, avenge me; if I shrink, kill me," the former paratrooper told the delegates. "We are no longer a tiny movement. We are today the leading political movement in France."

Le Pen founded the anti-immigration party in 1972 and achieved global notoriety in 1987 when he called the Nazi holocaust a "detail of history."

In a 90-minute speech punctuated by frequent applause and chants, Le Pen accused both the governing socialists and traditional conservative parties of "political AIDS."

He hammered away at a favourite theme: That other politicians turn a blind eye to immigration, thereby stoking racial pressures that will soon be insoluble except through violence.

After the speech and Le Pen's reelection in the flag-draped amphitheater on the French Riviera, the crowd broke into the "ode of joy" from Beethoven's ninth symphony.

Earlier, about 700 people prayed outside the palace of justice for the 6 million Jews killed during the holocaust to protest the attendance at the congress of Franz Schoenhuber, leader of West Germany's far-right Republican Party.

Schoenhuber belonged to the Waffen SS during World War II. His party and the National Front form an alliance at the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

The National Front won 12 per cent on the vote in presidential elections in 1988 based its anti-immigration platform. Its support is strongest among white voters in areas where large numbers of North African and black immigrants live.

"We are the expression of the French people who want to become once again their own masters," said Bruno Megret, the party's second in command. "We will be in power before the end of the decade."

The National Front hopes to broaden its platform to include ecological issues in an effort to woo rural voters. The party recently gained its first seat in the 577-seat National Assembly. It held 35 seats until electoral changes in 1988 left the party without representation.

The congress comes as leaders of France's mainstream conservative parties met near Paris to work out a common position on immigration ahead of round-table talks with the Socialist government on racism next week.

A communist mayor in the Paris suburbs was thrown out of office for alleged racist remarks yesterday as a national debate on immigration gained momentum.



Obsessed fan

An obsessed fan Joni Penn armed with a rifle broke into the home of actress Sharon Gless, of the television series 'Cagney and Lacey', on Friday and threatened to kill her. Gless was not at home when the incident occurred. At bottom Penn is taken into custody by Los Angeles police. (Reuters wirephoto)

Boyish leader Aznar takes reins of Spanish Conservatives

SEVILLE, Spain, April 1, (AP): A 37-year-old tax inspector with a boyish grin became the leader of Spain's Conservatives yesterday as the opposition party met to endorse a sweeping generational change and seek to govern by 1993.

Jose Maria Aznar, 37, the former head of the Castile-Leon regional government, was unopposed and won backing from 97 per cent of the 2,859 delegates to the Popular Party's two-day convention. He

succeeds the party's founder, 67-year-old Manuel Fraga.

Aznar, making his speech a day ahead of schedule, told delegates he would seek "confidence, rigour and unity from the party and encourage a change in morale from one of resistance to one of victory."

His rise comes at a time when the ruling Socialists led by Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez appear to be on the defensive. The Socialists have been losing public support over allegations of corruption and

failure to spread the new wealth created by a four-year economic boom.

In the convention's opening address, Fraga pledged unconditional support for Aznar, saying "this convention will confirm the consolidation of our political force — its renewal and rejuvenation — as the real and serious alternative to govern Spain."

Aznar, a handsome man with dark hair, a thick moustache and the trademark boyish grin, is assured of winning over-

whelming support for his plan to jettison the party's right-wing image and move to attract centrist voters. He penned the convention's slogan: "Centred on freedom."

Aznar had been the party's vice president since last summer and was its candidate for prime minister in the Oct 29 general elections, when it won 107 of the 350 seats in the key lower house of Parliament. That was an increase of two seats from the previous election in 1986.

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Special Ramadan Offer

Now is the time to ask for a Personal Loan.

And get a one month interest free grace period.

This month's expenses are many... Now is your opportunity to obtain a personal loan and take advantage of the Gulf Bank's special offer. Those who borrow now have the benefit of postponing one month's installment, interest free!

Don't wait, apply today for a new loan, and get a one month grace period.

We haven't forgotten our existing customers either! Any Gulf Bank customer with loans will also have the advantage of having the installment due, during the Holy Month of Ramadan, postponed interest free.

It's our way to always find new ways to help you.

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Banking in the '90s on service excellence and...

FINDING NEW WAYS TO HELP YOU.

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KUWAIT ... GULF

Free trade zone may be established soon

Private company to operate stores

A RESPONSIBLE source at the Ministry of Finance said that a law on the establishment of a free trade zone will be issued during this year and is awaiting approval.

The official said that a new system of customs storage was established which is similar to the system of free zones. According to the system, the importer keeps his

imports in the general customs stores, and he has the right to market them either in the local market or to re-export them. The normal procedures are not applicable on these goods—except those related to rules of the Arab Office for Boycott and those related to prohibited goods.

The storage period at these stores is one

complete year, which can be extended for another year. The stores will be operated by a private company and importers will not need to go to the government authorities to fulfil formalities. Thus, the customer will be provided a certificate of origin without the need for approaching the ministry for the purpose of re-export-

ing his goods. This procedure is a step to issue the free trade zone law, the source said.

The government had undertaken a technical study in 1961 that recommended the establishment of a free area at Kuwait port, the source said and the present move is in relation to that study.

Legal Clinic

SHOULD you have a legal, labour-related or similar problem, kindly send your questions to: Arab Times Legal Clinic. Our Kuwaiti lawyer, Khaled Taher, replies to readers' queries. Write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495.

I WORKED as an accountant with a company from June 1979 until Jan 1990, when my services were terminated by my company. I have decided to return to my country for good. Am I entitled to get an air ticket from my company?

H. Mathias

ACCORDING to 87/1989 social affairs regulations, article 20 & 21, an employee is entitled to get an air ticket on final cancellation of visa. You can ask your company for this, if there is no provision in the contract saying otherwise. All the terms of the contract, whatever they may be, must be followed. It is clearly mentioned in the No. 87/1989 rules that an employer must deposit an air ticket and an employee's passport at the time of final cancellation of a visa.

I HAVE been in Kuwait since 1983 on a working visa. Last year, I transferred my visa to another company which stamped my residence, which expires this month. My services were terminated two months ago. Now, my previous employers are not giving a release although I have found another job. Can the company refuse to give me the release even though I have submitted a letter from my new employers? Please advise.

An employee

YOU CAN approach the social affairs ministry to file a complaint against the company, asking them for the release papers. A notice through a court can also be given to get the release. And, you can also file a compensation case if the company did not give the release within a stipulated period. You can also claim an air ticket to leave the country for final cancellation of a visa and try to re-enter the country on a new visa.

I CAME to Kuwait in 1970 and have been employed as a foreman in three different companies. In 1986, I had to cancel my visa and return to my country. I came back to Kuwait in 1989 with a new visa. I wish to know if I am eligible to get the exemption prescribed in Article 17 of the residence law regarding changing residence if the present employer gives me a release?

N.M. Nair

ARTICLE 17 exempts people who have lived in Kuwait, and worked here, for a continuous period of ten years on a work permit, No. 18 visa. As you cut your term of stay, you are not eligible under the rule because you did not complete 10 years. I suggest you go to the social affairs ministry, who might be in a better position to help you on the matter.

I HAVE been working as an accounts clerk; I have also been assigned another job by the same company through written orders but I am not paid for this job for the last one year. I am working with the same company and did not complain for fear of losing my job. In case, if I leave the company or my services are terminated, can I take the matter to any authority to receive my dues? Is there any time bar and will I have to bear heavy expenditure to take the matter to court?

F.G.V.

YES, you can take the matter to the ministry of social affairs. If you file a case while working, there is a possibility that you can be fired; it is better to keep the matter pending till the end of the contract, and then ask for your dues at the end of the appropriate time. You can claim all the rights, overtime work done and any other rightful dues. And the claim must be made within a year of ending the contract. The period begins on the day of termination of the contract.

WHAT should be the mode of action as per the labour law in case the employee has to resign because of salary reduction?

B. Prasad

IF THE salary has been reduced, you can approach the social affairs ministry and report the matter to end the contract, and you have the right to claim all the benefits. If the social affairs ministry cannot resolve the dispute, they will advise you to file a court case.

IN AN establishment where Kuwaiti partner is the financier and expatriate the manager on a monthly salary in addition to 30 per cent partner in profits, what type of legal

contract do you advise be made under the law which will protect the interest of the expatriate at the time of annual account settlement?

M. Kalis

I CAN'T answer this question in a newspaper column, because it requires a whole news page to cover. It is not only a matter of 30 per cent only; several aspects are taken into consideration. I suggest you hire a lawyer, and pay him his fees to give you appropriate advice.

I HAVE been employed in a reputed company since 1982. We worked five days a week and were paid overtime for working on Thursdays. Now, the overtime payment has been suspended. If I resign, what benefits am I entitled to? I have not signed a new contract each year. If I refuse to work on Thursday, what action can the company take?

Ahmed employee

1. ACCORDING to your contract, article 10 the weekend holiday falls on Fridays only. This means that there are six working days. If you were working for five days, it was up to the company to pay over time. As you have been working since 1982, I suggest you file a case against the company, and the court will decide if there has been a change in the contract or not. Your contract, however, clearly states that you have only one weekly day off.

2. If you resign, according to the Kuwaiti labour law, you are entitled to get 7.5 days salary for the first five years, and half a month pay for the subsequent years.

Regarding the contract you signed, and if there is no other contract changing it, the first contract is held valid. A contract is renewed for an unlimited period if an employee continues to work in the same company.

3. According to the labour law, you must work on Thursday as it is not a holiday for you; if the company asks you to work, you can't refuse, even if it is an official holiday, because the job needs to be done. If you do, it means that you are disobeying, and an employer can use this against you to terminate your contract, according to article 55, part b. of the private sector labour law.

Campaign to help Palestinians in distress

AL MUNASARAH Charitable Committee for Palestine and Lebanon will launch a charitable campaign during the Holy Month of Ramadan to explain the dilemma of the Palestinian people.

In an interview with a local daily, Ahmed Al Falah of the committee said that this month constitutes a month of fasting and Jihad and his committee has opened the door to philanthropists to extend necessary support to the Palestinian people through charitable projects adopted by the committee.

These include the fasting Zakat and funds Zakat in addition to any other alms and added that these funds will be distributed to the needy people in Palestine who are being subjected to an economic blockade and a war of annihilation by Israel.

The committee has adopted the breakfast meals project where the committee has defined the value of each meal as five hundred fils.

Orphans

Meanwhile, the official said that the committee during this month will be concentrating on the orphan project which aims at patronising needy orphans in Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan. Presently, the committee patronises about 2,000 orphans. According to this patronage, each orphan in Jordan or Palestine is entitled to KD15, while in Lebanon they are entitled to KD10 each.

In light of the increasing exodus of the Soviet Jews to Palestine, the committee has decided to set up Al Munasarah and Al Ansar charitable projects to support the Palestinian people in the occupied territories to resist the move to displace them from their homeland.

He said that the project aims at building bridges between the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the people in the GCC countries. One complete family will be patronised with an amount of KD25 per month, the official said.



Roumi retires

The Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs, Dhari Al Othman, has said that the ministry is preparing a new, payment scale for judges, consultants and prosecutors in co-operation with the Civil Service Commission and the scale will be completed and approved shortly.

Othman, speaking at the farewell party held at Kuwait International Hotel to honour the undersecretary of Ministry of Justice, Nasser Al Roumi, on the occasion of his retirement, added that the minis-

try extends every assistance to solve all problems that face the judicial staff. The minister praised the undersecretary for his sacrifice and honest performance during his 35 years of service.

The audience then heard speeches for Judge Abdulla Al Essa on behalf of judicial staff. Roumi then received gifts and memorial shields from the justice minister and senior officials of the ministry who represented all staff of the ministry. Pictures show Roumi (right), receiving a gift from Judge Mohammed Al Rifal.

Prices shoot up in Ramadan rush

Fresh tomatoes cost 400pc more

PRICES of most commodities in Kuwait's markets have shown a sharp increase to coincide with the holy month of Ramadan. Prices of some commodities, especially fresh vegetables and fruits, increased by over 100 per cent. Observers in the market stressed that the price hike was intended to exploit the huge rush by consumers shopping for the holy month of Ramadan. The observers emphasised that the intention by merchants to achieve "quick" profits at the cost of poor consumers by also exploiting a holy occasion, is entirely illegal.

According to some unofficial statistical reports, the maximum price hike was in the fresh tomatoes which shot up by 400 per cent. Only in the past 10 days, dairy produce prices increased by 5 to 41 per cent, milk from 12 to 33 per cent, yeast 31 per cent, tinned fruits 16 per cent, jelly 15 per cent, tooth paste 45 per cent, shoe 32 per cent, beef 35 per cent, soups 80 per cent, fresh vegetables from 25 to 100 per cent and many others.

A case of fresh tomatoes which was sold at about 500 fils just one week before Ramadan, is now being sold at KD2.500. A kilo of tomatoes fetches over 600 fils. The price hike also hit fruits, especially fresh, and the price ranged from 10 per cent upward.

Cucumbers, a commodity greatly needed by consumers during the holy month for salad, shot up very sharply and a case is now sold at KD3.500.

Report

The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Faisal Abdul Razzak Al Khaled, who last week partly put the blame on consumers for the price hike, has now asked for an urgent report on the prices of foodstuffs and agricultural products, according to an Arabic daily.

An official source at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

said yesterday that the state has provided many of the essential commodities to the consumers at reasonable and fixed prices and no side can surpass those prices. Such commodities include the rationed sugar, rice, milk powder in addition to fresh milk and others.

The official said that the Union of Consumers' Co-operative Societies is responsible for other commodities. The official said that there is a committee responsible to ensure that prices and profit margins, were reasonable. The committee does not allow merchants to surpass these reasonable prices.

But the official stressed that commodities like fresh vegetables and fruits are subjected to the law of supply and demand. The official emphasised that consumers are to be blamed for causing the price hike. He said that if the consumers feel that the price of one certain commodity has been hiked, they should search for alternative commodities or stop buying that commodity until prices are lowered.

Demand

Chairman of the Agricultural Production Societies, Barrak Al Noun, said that the theory of supply and demand is the main factor for determining the prices of fruits and vegetables. He said that it is clear that the demand on such products greatly increases every year during the holy month of Ramadan. Demand surpasses supply and thus prices go up, Noun added.

He said that part of the agricultural produce in the market is locally produced and the rest is imported. He added that because of some diseases and other natural causes, the local produce of vegetables this season, sharply dropped. He added that this allowed the importers to control the market prices on such products and thus easily hike the prices.

Noun also stressed on the

importance of the local agricultural sector adding that more attention should be directed to this sector, in order to achieve self-sufficiency in the field. He added that through this way, we can overcome artificial price hikes.

Director-general of the Consumers Co-operative Societies, Abdullatif Al Kharaz, said that Kuwait is an importing country. We import most of our needs from outside. Thus, he added, the prices of most commodities depend upon world market prices. He said that this year, there has been no artificial price hike and the current hike, mainly attributed to the increase in international prices.

He said that the union does not approve any increase in the prices of commodities during the holy month. He stressed that current prices are normal as within the reach of majority consumers.

Grocery and other shops also exploited the situation and further hiked prices. Groceries were selling tomatoes at KD1 per kilo. Head of shops inspection division at Consumers' Protection Department, Jamal Al Rashid said that their role is to interfere in case of exploitation by salesmen, in accordance with the law. He said that exploitation here means increasing the prices artificially to exploit a shortage in the commodity in the market.

He said that the division watches the implementation of official decisions on the prices of some commodities and services like meat, water, cold drinks and others. But Rashid commented on the current price hike said, "The official sides do not interfere when prices go down and merchants may lose, why should they interfere when prices go up?" He said that the whole matter is simply "supply and demand." Consumers should be more aware and should not go for the commodity when prices go up.

Customs inspectors on alert

CUSTOMS inspection at Kuwait International Airport plays a vital role in preventing the entrance of all prohibited materials into the country.

Customs inspectors have a very sophisticated modus operandi of conveying messages amongst themselves of suspects who arrive at the airport with contraband.

A local daily interviewed a number of customs inspectors on duty at Kuwait International Airport.

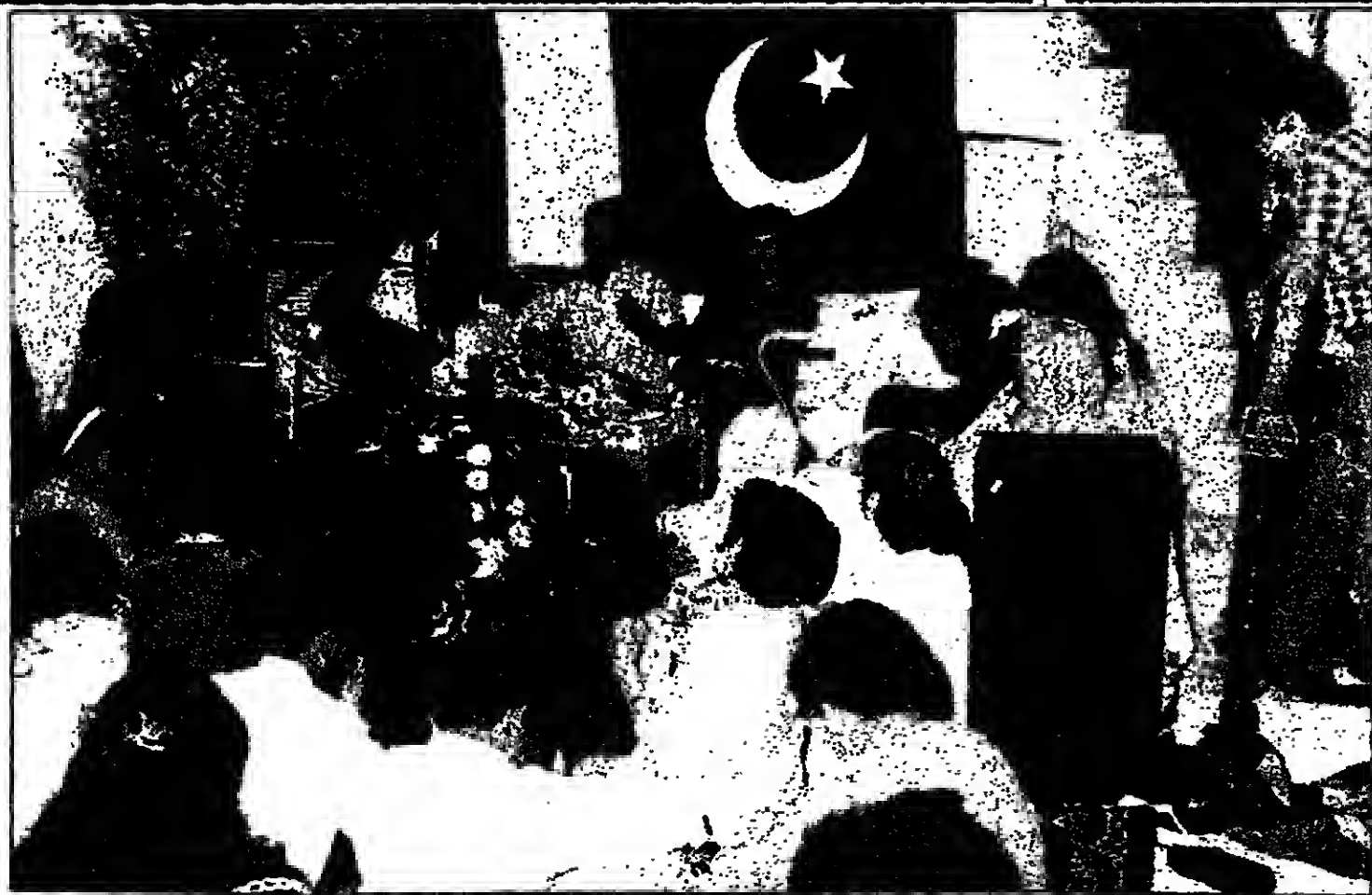
Khaleda Abdul Aziz al Masood specialises in inspecting females. She added that many females resent the idea of a body search, but we patiently explain to them that this is considered routine and within the definition of the law.

Khaleda added that one of her official functions is to closely keep a watch on all incoming passengers and to evaluate any suspicious travellers. She added that close monitoring of passengers reveals smugglers as they tend to behave differently from normal and boafide passengers.

Attempts

Iqbal Al Khodar working as a female inspector for over 19 years said that passengers are prone more to body searches than in the past. This is due to the increasing number of attempts to smuggle narcotics, alcohol, arms and other contraband. She said that body searches are imperative to reveal any smuggling attempts.

Abdul Kareem Sulaiman Al Mussa said that inspection at Kuwait International Airport is on a par with the best in the world, with well trained officers. However, he added that all officials desire to attend enhanced training courses where the latest technology in anti-smuggling is explained. He added that diplomatic personnel and other individuals who enjoy certain perks are not inspected.



Children addressed

Dr Javed Iqbal addressed during his recent visit to Kuwait a group of children and their parents at a function organised by Approb, to celebrate the golden jubilee of the Pakistan Resolution. The children asked interesting questions on the Pakistan movement and were joined by more than 100 guests.

High dowries to end: statistics

By Sayed Othman

HIGH DOWRIES in Kuwait will soon be an issue of the past, according to statistics issued by the Ministry of Justice.

High dowries had played a negative role in the past and had resulted in Kuwaiti youths either marrying non-Kuwaiti girls or delaying marriage until they had secured the required funds.

Recent statistics indicated that 24 Kuwaiti girls had married for a dowry of KD one against eight who had dowries amounting to as high as KD15,000.

Last year there were 10,108 marriages registered among Kuwaitis and expatriates—registering an increase of 103 compared to the previous year. Of these, 4,851 were among Kuwaitis with an increase of 346. However, marriages among stateless people had retreated, while expatriate marriages had shown an increase.

Statistics said that Kuwaiti women married either to Kuwaitis or non-Kuwaitis amounted to 5,559—an increase of 213 compared to the

previous year. About 708 Kuwaiti women had married non-Kuwaitis—some of them stateless.

A total of 4,549 non-Kuwaiti women of whom 1,050 married Kuwaiti men were also registered.

Statistics said that 241 women married for a dowry less than KD100, 159 accepted dowries less than KD500, 111 marriages were with dowries less than KD2,000, 1,939 less than KD3,000. However, five Iraqi women, one Saudi, eight Jordanian and Palestinians, three Syrians, six Lebanese and two Asians married last year with a dowry over KD15,000 each. Another Iraqi woman, six Saudis, one Yemeni, 47 Jordanians and Palestinians, five Syrians, 33 Lebanese three Egyptians and three Asians were married for dowries over KD10,000. There were 1203 Arab and Asian women who got married last year for dowries ranging between KD5,000 and KD10,000.

Palestinians and Jordanian marriages topped the list, followed by Kuwaitis, Asians, Iraqis, Saudis, Egyptians, Syrians, Lebanese Yemenis, Americans and Africans.

Municipality motivation

EMPLOYEES at Kuwait Municipality entitled to an incentive allowance will be given a financial reward of two per cent of the value of any fines collected on reports filed by them, subject to a maximum of KD10 per infringement.

The decision was recently endorsed by Kuwait's Civil Service Council at the request of the acting director-general of Kuwait Municipality, Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al Ali. The decision includes a technical allowance to be given to employees of supervisory posts at the food department, cleanliness department, sign control bakeries inspectors and barber saloons supervisors at the municipality.

Commercial licences to be reviewed

THE assistant undersecretary for commercial affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Rashid Al Mijren has said that the ministry began a comprehensive field survey of all existing commercial licences with a view to cancelling those not in use.

He told a local daily that the inspection and location of commercial licences is currently in progress in the Jahra area, and that a number of licences have as a result been cancelled. The process will later start in Farwaniya and Kuwait City, to be followed by others, until all areas of the country have been explored.

Facilities

The availability of computer facilities and the completion of relevant data on these licences were a great requirement for beginning such an operation, the official said and added that there are hundreds of commercial licences issued to individuals since 1965.

He said that the external centres of the ministry are carrying out the task of cancellation of unused licences within three months of the date of their issue. Ministry sources said commercial licences cost KD52,175, and that the reason for this inspection and cancellation is the great number of these licences are used for trading purposes.

A total of 5,448 licences were issued for ready made clothes and 4,663 were issued to groceries.

Specialised hospitals planned around Kuwait

Private sector involvement sought

THE Council of Ministers has reportedly approved in principle the allocation of government-owned sites to set up special-purpose hospitals in different locations in the country.

A local daily has said that the council required the relevant government personnel to carry out the necessary co-ordination with the Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Finance's Government

Property and Services Department on the manner of distribution of the proposed sites. These sites are to be offered for sale to those wishing to undertake the construction of these hospitals.

The director of the Planning Department at Kuwait Municipality Mosa Al Sarraf has said that the sites had already been allocated in the existing investment areas, where hospitals and specialised clinics

would be set up. Facilities to be constructed must be housed in the right environment, which require the presence of parks, entertainment grounds for patients and others.

He told a local daily that there have been many requests for the construction of private hospitals and specialised clinics, and that the provision of the right sites for these vital facilities would be a great investment opportunity. The main stress would be laid on quality rather than quantity.

He said that the department of government property and services at the Finance Ministry would define the prices according to the going rates in each of the location designated, adding that the government is deeply aware of the need to involve the private sector in the implementation of such projects.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Premier receives

KUWAIT, April 1, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah yesterday received in audience at Bayan Palace, United Kingdom's Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Weston on the occasion of assuming his post.

Planning meeting

KUWAIT, April 1, (Kuna): Member of the Supreme Planning Council Ahmad Saad Al Jasser yesterday chaired a meeting of the planning committees to discuss the draft long-term plan of 1990-2015.

The meeting was attended by Planning Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Abdullah Al Awadi and the work teams who explained projects included in the long-term plan.

Secretary-general of the council Fuad Mulla Hussein said the sub-committees of the council held a joint meeting to discuss the 1990-2015 plan which was recently referred to it by the cabinet.

Hussein told Kuna that the conferees had agreed to hold another meeting for more talks on the long-term plan.

Gorbachev message

DOHA, April 1, (Kuna): A verbal message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was conveyed Saturday to the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, the Qatari News Agency reported.

The agency said the message was conveyed by the Soviet ambassador in Doha and that it included the Soviet position toward the Middle East crisis and bilateral relations.

Campaign

KUWAIT, April 1, (Kuna): Two Kuwaiti dailies today blasted the anti-Iraq campaign in Britain and the US, affirming that Iraq has the right to acquire any advanced technology to ensure its self-defence.

Daily Al Seyassah wondered why Iraq has been singled out for an extensive armament campaign while Israel which has been arming itself to the teeth has been doing so without any objection from the worried West.

For its part, another daily said that the alleged plot to smuggle nuclear triggering devices and naval equipment to Iraq was nothing but a reaction to the execution of Farzabad Bazoft in Baghdad for spying.

The paper declared "charging some Iraqi passport holders with smuggling prohibited material does not make a very strong case against Iraq."

Saudi minister

AMMAN, April 1, (Kuna): Saudi Minister of Education Abdul Aziz Al Khaier arrived here yesterday for a brief visit to Jordan, during which he will convey a message from King Fahd Bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia to the Jordanian monarch, King Hussein.

Khaier did not indicate the contents of the message.

Porno games

A LOCAL daily has reported that the common children computer games "Atari" involve pornographic bonuses to players who can outwit the computer and win continuously.

The paper said that the bonuses involved a series of pictures taken by the nude in different postures of world famous actresses and that the winning player would be able to press the bonus key and get a pornographic picture of his favourite actress printed out for him.

It is noteworthy that this advantage is only accessible to experienced players who can win all games continuously over a period estimated at one and a half to two hours of successful playing.



Ramadan greetings

Director of the General Traffic Department, Brig. Abdul Hameed Al Hajji congratulated police traffic officers on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. He received the heads of departments and various sections of the Traffic Department. He told officers that Interior Minister, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah has agreed to grant financial gratuities to policemen for excellent services. Picture shows Hajji greeting officers.

Customs to facilitate procedures, says Ghanim

New warehouses to be built

DIRECTOR General of the General Customs Department Ibrahim Abdullah Al Ghanim has said that the new ministerial decision no. 3 for 1990 on customs data and systems falls within the framework of national efforts to activate the local economy's situation by simplifying procedures, and facilitating the processing of transactions and saving time and effort.

He said that the existing customs law basically derives from the Arab unified customs law, while the ministerial decision defined the mode of application, adding that the customs data and regulation were governed under decision 152 for 1980 and the finance minister's decision no. 14 for 1984 on the regulation of customs clearance.

Transit merchandise has been divided into direct transit goods, which would be permitted to stay in the country for 48 hours from the date of its entry from the country's border and goods of indirect transit and this could stay in the country no more than five days, the official said.

He said that to meet the requirements of public interest special forms will be prepared for goods imported into the country at the value not exceeding KD 500 and that these forms would speed up the process of clearance and insurances.

Personal luggage will be exempted from customs tax in order to facilitate the passage of people into the country, but personal effects however still have to be inspected to insure that no commercial intentions are involved in the import of clothes.

Exemption

Personal luggage with value exceeding KD 500 will be admitted into the country under the temporary admission clause, and the dept has decided to make substantial amendments into the system governing the temporary admission of goods to cope with new developments, particularly the admission of equipment and machines by contract-

tors executing projects in the country.

Ghanim said that the existing goods allowance rate has been reduced for goods admitted for temporary period in the country by 0.001 per cent of the total value of the goods, and the allowance would cover a period of three months only regardless of how long the goods will remain in the country, unlike the system operated before which charged high fees under decision No. 32/82.

He pointed out that ministries and other government agencies were exempted from paying the insurance value on goods imported in accordance with this system, unlike the decision No. 152/80 which stipulated that the government agencies pay high insurance amounts.

Warehouses

Under the new decision the department could build public customs warehouses to be run under the supervision of the customs authorities and the agencies involved in investing these facilities. Consequently the importer could store his goods, whether bound for the local market or not meant to be admitted into the country and will have the freedom to re-export these goods or admit them into the country for local use, without having to face the usual customs procedures and red tape.

He said that a ministerial decision would be issued to define these warehouse and storage period and whether this period is extendable or not. Another type of warehouse would be designated for importers to enable them to release their goods after submitting the necessary justifications to customs authorities without having to bear the involved cost of demurrage.

The period of storage in these private warehouses will be six months to be extended on request, against a cash insurance amount paid by the importer equivalent to the value of due customs tax, Ghanim said.

Awadi denies services plan

KUWAIT, April 1, (Kuna): Planning Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi has denied that the government was planning to ask the private sector to run hospitals, schools, university and applied education in the upcoming five-year plan.

Awadi, told a local daily that a study on converting responsibility of government institutions to the private sector will be programmed according to a certain plan.

The state will not give up services to citizens and expatriates in certain fields, however, the minister underlined, adding that the private sector is welcome to participate in a number of construction and planning projects in the upcoming development plan.

Recent press reports had said that the government was planning to hand over responsibility of running hospitals, schools and other government institutions to the private sector in the five year development plan.

Awadi said that the plan, the third for the country, will witness a qualitative leap in planning and building the Kuwaiti man at the instructions of HH the Amir urging for a qualitative leap in the nineties.

The upcoming plan is the first and preparatory stage for the strategic 25 years plan which had been recently drafted, he noted in conclusion.

Previous reports had categorically stated that the move is intended to be developed through joint stock companies or privatisation companies or commercially competitive companies. Presently, plans are underway to study the government services that should be transferred to the private sector on a priority basis in conjunction with the ability of the local market to bear the assets and costs of this work.

Estimates indicate that the investment of the private sector in the transfer of such services should be in the vicinity of KD7 billion. Such mammoth funds need the astute programming of projects and services as well as studying the substitutes for the future of the assets of the transferred services that could total over several billion dinars in relation to centrals of the Ministry of Communications, power stations, hospitals, schools and universities as well as the faculties and institutes of applied education.

Unemployment likely for Arabs in 1990's

Returning workers to aggravate burden

ARAB manpower during 1990 is estimated to amount to \$64.5 million, according to estimates revealed by the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO).

According to a recent study, the organisation expected the volume of such manpower to total 99 million by the end of the current century and to 123 million by the year 2010 AD. These figures are insignificant as compared to the total population of the Arab nations which will amount to about 221 million and 362 million respectively.

The organisation attributed the small numbers of Arab manpower vis-a-vis the total population to the poor contribution of the workforce in Arab economic activities. It said that this phenomenon could be attributed to two facts. The first represents that about 53 per cent of Arab manpower is under 20 years old and the second is represented in the poor contribution of Arab women in the economic sphere.

The contributions of the latter represent about 10.6 per cent only, the organisation said. It added that the volume of the Arab workforce will increase by about 2.5 million per annum during the 1990s decade and is expected to rise to about 3.3 million per annum during the next decade. In this respect, the study said that 2.5 job opportunities should be provided per annum in the Arab countries to reduce unemployment rates. The study further cited that there is a lot of unemployment at the Arab level and cited Egypt alone which has

about 667,000 workers in this category.

Additionally, the organisation pointed out that a large number of conscripts in different Arab countries will be demobilised and this section will further add to the unemployment figures existing in the Arab countries. The return of immigrant workers to their homes will further aggravate the burden on some Arab countries in the coming few years.

Basically, the organisation said that the returning immigrant workforce is not classified among the national manpower during the past plans.

It further said that the GCC countries will need the services of 210,000 employees per annum. The private sector showed no enthusiasm to employ nationals and expatriates will constitute the bulk of labour due to their being inexpensive.

Meanwhile, the Arab Labour Organisation has clarified that the GCC countries don't suffer from a lack of job opportunities to provide their citizens with, but suffer from organisational and administrative problems.

Speaking of the countries of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC), ALO said that these countries were requested to provide 950,000 job opportunities per annum. Egypt is a prime candidate, with Iraq having the necessary capability for employing an adequate workforce. The years of war between Iraq and Iran had shown that Iraq has the capability to provide job opportunities in the year 1983 for 1 million expatriates and still continue to receive these workers to the extent to 600,000 per annum, with about 450,000 per annum from Egypt.

Task

On the Arab Maghreb Union countries, ALO said that these countries were requested to provide 700,000 job opportunities per annum. This is an uphill task, as these countries suffer from an acute unemployment problem represented by the existence of two million jobless people.

Liha, it added is the most important for manpower among the Arab Maghreb Union countries and brings in about 738,000 Arab employees per annum. It added that the Arab Maghreb Union countries will face another problem by returning immigrant employees who are currently working in Europe in general and France in particular. Additionally, conflicts have erupted recently between Mauritania and Senegal which will result in the latter deporting a number of Mauritanian employees. Meanwhile, the organisation said that Sudan is requested to provide about 630,000 job opportunities.

On the other hand, the organisation has estimated the jobless figures in the Arab countries to be about five million workers, but it added that this figure does not constitute a dangerous figure for time being as it does not exceed 8 per cent of the total workforce.



Community courses

Under the auspices of the deputy rector for community services and information affairs at Kuwait University Dr Rasha Al Sabah, a graduation ceremony was organised for graduates of specialised training courses including executive secretaries, accounts and other intensified courses in different areas. These courses were organised by the Community Service Centre during the first semester of the academic year 1989/1990.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr Sabah confirmed that continued education and the training courses

constitute two feeders for community services. She said the centre was striving to develop Islamic and Arab communities in different fields and add that it is looking forward that the university extend scientific, cultural and academic services coupled with applied sciences.

She described the university's expansion as a pioneer effort. Picture shows Dr Sabah awarding a certificate to a graduate.

Consumers complain of increase in prices

A NUMBER of consumers have complained of the increase in prices of both local and imported furniture and stressed that furniture displayed at the markets is not of good quality, although their prices are high and called on officials at the Ministry of Commerce to exercise strict control on quality and prices.

However, a section of consumers praised local furniture claiming that it lasts longer than European products as the former is made from better quality wood. They claimed that European furniture is quickly damaged and cannot be transported from one place to another without major damage.

Local manufacturers said all wood used in making furniture in Kuwait is of the highest quality. Prices vary according to the decoration they said and pointed out that a bedroom set that starts as low as KD 200 goes up to several thousand dinars. They further said that whereas, local furniture can last for over five years, imported European furniture does not last over a year.

Faisal Al Khawaja a furniture manufacturer added that most consumers are interested in decoration and shape of the furniture and not the quality — specially those who change their furniture every year. He advised those customers who have children to opt to purchase local made furniture as it lasts longer and gives value for money.

Co-op law

Plan to revamp major policies

THE chairman of the Kuwait Consumer Co-operative Societies Sabir Abbas Al Swarej has said that the union is planning to carry out a number of important steps, including the revision of the old co-operative law and the reconsideration of the enforced policies, study the feasibility of partial computerisation of union activities and the launching of joint projects.

He said that the union is aspiring to revise law No. 24 for 1974 to cope with new developments in the co-operative movement, stressing his hope that the relevant government authorities will extend all necessary help in this regard.

Existing union policies needed more flexibility to be better responsive to meeting ever-changing needs and new developments. This could possibly lead to the abrogation of certain policies and the drawing up of completely new ones to cater to the requirements of the current economic and social development state, Swarej said.

He added that a number of committees had been formed for this purpose containing on their memberships a number of professors from Kuwait University and some of the directors, members and veteran operatives to fulfil the central aim of this revision, which is optimising performance.

The union is currently studying the feasibility of introducing computers into the operation of the co-operative societies, and the idea is to eventually interlink these societies via one computer network to ensure better precision and co-ordination of work.

The union is also planning to set up joint collective projects, to be funded under the item social services, such as the construction of parks, clubs for the disabled, landscaping medians and public squares, the building of schools, clinics and other public facilities, besides participation in the social welfare development projects, the chairman said.

No cuts in budgets of vital services

THE forthcoming state budget will include new budgets for housing, education and health projects and although the government is rationalising spendings, there will not be any cuts in the budgets related to vital services as the government is concerned about its citizens welfare — specially those who fall within the limited

income group. Giving these details, a responsible source said that the new budget will noticeably be increased compared to the present budget.

The Minister of Finance, Jassem Al Khorafi held several meetings with senior

officials at the ministries and financial departments to lay down the specifics of the new state budget. He has instructed these officials with guidelines on the draft budget, keeping in mind the importance of following the rationalisation of spendings policy.

On the other hand, reliable sources

pointed out that a number of senior officials at the public sector, specifically assistant undersecretaries at some technical ministries will submit their resignations to pave the way for young Kuwaiti blood. The same sources denied the rumour that the government intends to dismiss some public staff.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

NEVER trust a man who speaks well of everybody — John Churton Collins, English literary critic (1846-1908).

Arab-American study
'Recognise state of Palestine'

WASHINGTON, (Kuna): A clear majority of Arab-Americans believe strongly that the US government should recognize the state of Palestine in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as declared by the Palestine National Council.

Arab-Americans also want the US administration to work to bring about an international peace conference on the Middle East, sponsor direct negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and use its diplomatic and economic influence to bring Israel to the negotiating table.

These facts and many others emerge from the first massive scientific study of the attitudes of more than two and a half million-strong Arab-American community.

The survey was conducted by Dr Baha Abu Laban, a professor of sociology at the University of Alberta, in Canada and author of several books and studies.

Study

The massive study was organized by the major Arab-American organization, the American Arab-Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), which this weekend held its tenth anniversary convention here in Washington, where the study was released for the first time.

Based on the result of the survey, Arab-Americans who were polled also hold strongly to the opinion that Lebanon should be reunited under a new representative government and that all foreign troops should be withdrawn from the country.

Also, Lebanon certainly needs humanitarian aid and Arab-Americans would like the US government to respond more generously to this need.

The survey was based on a total of 2,626 completed questionnaires of a representative sample of ADC members in both the US and Canada.

It reveals some interesting facts about the Arab-American community itself. For example, 71 per cent of those who responded were males. Approximately 59 per cent were born in the US, 33 per cent were naturalized US citizens, and the balance — 8 per cent — were classified as permanent residents (green card holders) or temporary visitors.

In terms of Arab country of origin, about 36 per cent originated from Palestine, 33 per cent from Lebanon, 16 per cent from Syria, 5 per cent from Iraq, 4 per cent from Egypt, 3 per cent from Jordan, and the remainder or 5 per cent from the Arab states in the Gulf region or North Africa.

The educational background of those surveyed was relatively high, with nearly 8 out of 10 holding a university degree, 14 per cent had some college education. About 43 per cent reported an income of over \$50,000 a year and a further 44 per cent were in the \$20,000-50,000 range.

ADC's survey covered quite a variety of issues of concern to Arab-Americans and to their umbrella organizations, including opinions on social status, political participation, media exposure and media coverage of the Middle East, the future of Lebanon and Palestine, selected aspects of US foreign policy, current public issues and the like. The poll finds that, on the social status of Arab-Americans, the majority believe that stereotyping and discrimination are two major issues they face in the United States.

The media, particularly TV and film productions — are seen to be responsible for the transmission and hence perpetuation of negative images of Arabs. The evidence derived from the survey suggests that Arab-Americans continue to sustain status losses in proportion to anti-Arab sentiments which seem to be prevalent in American society.

The results of the survey further show a high level of Arab-American activism within American politics. Issues of concern to Arab-Americans include what a political candidate's position is on the Middle East as well as domestic economic policies.

This indicates that for Arab-Americans, both issues relating to America, as well as to homeland politics, remain of central concern. How do Arab-Americans feel about the quality of US media coverage of the Middle East?

The responses show that the sweep majority of the respondents — 91 per cent either strongly agree or agree with the statement that "the media coverage is biased in favour of Israel".

Conversely, an equally high proportion — 92 per cent — either disagree or strongly disagree with the statement that "media coverage is biased in favour of the Palestinians" as the Israelis claim.

But despite their conviction that the US media are biased in favour of Israel, many respondents feel that there has been a qualitative improvement in media coverage of the Middle East in recent years.

They indicated that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the Palestinian intifada had played a significant role in bringing about this improvement of the American media's coverage.

On the US attitude towards the Arab-Israeli conflict, 97 per cent of Arab-Americans polled said the US should work to bring about an international peace conference that includes all the parties, including the PLO.

Ninety eight per cent said the US should use its diplomatic and economic influence to pressure Israel into joining negotiations.

And about 8 out of 10 respondents or 79 per cent endorsed the statement that "the US should sponsor direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians."

What also emerges from the survey is that the majority of Arab-Americans strongly advocate the exercise of US economic leverage in relation to peace efforts in the Middle East and additionally feel that US aid to Israel should change.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1512 — Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I and Swiss join Holy League against France.

1536 — Malmö, Sweden, surrenders to Denmark's King Christian III.

1559 — Peace treaty is signed at Cateau-Cambrésis between England and France.

1580 — Seventh War of Religion breaks out in France.

1595 — Spain's King Philip II undertakes to aid Earl of Tyrone's rebellion in Ireland.

1667 — France's King Louis XIV signs defensive League of the Rhine with Münster, Neuburg, Brunswick, Hesse-Cassel, Bavaria and Sweden.

1699 — British Admiral Benbow is sent to West Indies to gain reparations from Spain for destruction of British ships at Darien.

1801 — British fleet under Horatio Nelson is sent to Denmark because of Danish action on Elbe River and is victorious off Copenhagen.

1903 — Britain and France refuse to support construction of Baghdad railway.

1917 — US president Woodrow Wilson summons special session of Congress to declare war upon Germany.

1937 — South Africa prohibits political activity by foreigners in South-West Africa.

1947 — UN Security Council appoints US as trustee for Pacific islands formerly under Japanese mandate: Britain refers Palestine question to United Nations.

1964 — Yemen charges Britain with air attacks on its territory.

1986 — Terrorist bombs hole in TWA jetliner over southern Greece, and blast blows a man, woman and child out of the plane to their deaths.

1988 — Iraq claims its forces killed thousands of Iranian troops and overran bases of Kurdish rebels in mountainous northeast.

1989 — Police say more than 50 guerrillas are killed in new round of battles in northern Namibia.

Sajudis fail to do anything right

Nationalist leaders ignore reality

VILNIUS, Lithuania, USSR, (UPI): Lithuania's Sajudis nationalist leaders pursued a brilliant strategy to seize power Feb 24. They have done almost nothing right since.

For one thing, President Vytautas Landsbergis and the other Sajudis leaders now running Lithuania were not prepared to rule when the nationalist-controlled Parliament declared independence March 11.

There was no need for such precipitous action. After their victory in the Feb 24 elections, the Sajudis forces controlled Parliament. They had a legitimate mandate from the Lithuanian people. They were clearly in control.

But their rush to freedom destroyed their election-won strength nearly overnight.

Their decision to ignore political realities and act on purely moral principles wrought confusion in the Baltic republic and created an unnecessary confrontation with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who now is spinning the Lithuanian leadership around like a top.

Lithuanian Communist Party chief Algirdas Brazauskas, the man who should be president in place of Landsbergis, said as much.

"I don't think Gorbachev as a person has bad will towards Lithuania," Brazauskas told reporters recently. "I think our decision on March 11 and our subsequent acts have created this atmosphere in our relations from which I think we should find a way out."

The Sajudis nationalists made their first mistake March 10 when they did not elect Brazauskas president.

Brazauskas, a bear of a man whose political savvy, experience with power and general personal presence dwarfs that of Landsbergis, enjoys immense support among Lithuanians because of his party's decision Dec 20 to break from Moscow and form the first independent republican Communist Party in Soviet history.

With Brazauskas at its head, Lithuania would have presented, to Moscow and the world, a true coalition government with a Parliament controlled by principled nationalists and an executive run by a popular communist leader.

Such a government could have pursued a dual-track strategy: holding preliminary secession talks with Moscow while feeling out foreign governments about how much support they would give, if any, to Lithuanian independence — not in principle, but in practice.

That government also might have charted a careful course to full-fledged independence through in-depth assessments of international reactions to various scenarios.

These could have included whether the United States and its allies would recognize a unilateral declaration of independence, whether Western interests would allow immediate disregard for Soviet de facto rule or whether the West would be able to support and accept a solution negotiated with Moscow.

Instead, Lithuania's new leaders have spent most of the past two weeks performing award-winning imitations of whirling dervishes. To wit:

— They seem surprised and even hurt that no foreign government recognised Lithuania as an independent country.

They filled out the rest of their government in a hurried charade of ministerial appointments performed as Soviet tanks rolled past Parliament.

They announced plans to set up border checkpoints then backed off when Moscow became alarmed and they realized they could not implement those measures.

They talk one day of hopeful contacts with Soviet military officials and the next day protest army manoeuvres about which, to their amazement, Moscow does not have the courtesy to inform them in advance.

They have no clue about how many Soviet troops are based on Lithuanian soil and, as Landsbergis said proudly Wednesday, they have no intelligence activities under way to find out.



West mute over crackdown

LONDON, (AP): The muted response to the Soviet show of military force in Lithuania is proof of the West's commitment to President Mikhail Gorbachev.

And nearly three weeks into the Soviet confrontation with break-away republic, analysts say, no one knows whether there is a line beyond which Gorbachev cannot go without provoking Western retaliation.

Soviet soldiers were used to round up Lithuanians who deserted the Red Army after the republic declared March 11 that it was no longer part of the Soviet Union. And troops directed by Moscow have occupied the prosecutor's office, the institute of Marxism-Leninism, the higher party school and Communist Party headquarters in Lithuania.

"They've let Gorbachev go pretty far," says Jonathan Isle, director of the Royal United Services Institute, a London-based research centre.

Nationalities

"But all the nationalities of the Soviet Union now feel they also can go pretty far because Gorbachev cannot afford to be transformed overnight from a nice, cuddly figure to a

communist dictator," he said.

Friday, US President George Bush said he had sent a letter to Gorbachev appealing for a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

"I want to be sure that the Soviets understand our position and understand that we're not trying to make things difficult for Lithuania or the Soviet Union or anybody else," the president said.

The United States has never recognised the 1940 forced incorporation of Lithuania into the Soviet Union. But it also has never extended formal diplomatic recognition to the secessionist state.

The Western stance has left many Lithuanians feeling betrayed. Lithuania President Vytautas Landsbergis repeatedly has asked the US Congress to extend recognition to Lithuania.

For some critics, the cautious Western stance evoked echoes of 1956 and 1968, when a very different Kremlin crushed anti-communist uprisings in Hungary and then Czechoslovakia.

"We still feel uneasy that the Western world watched as the Prague

Spring of 1968 was crushed by Soviet tanks," British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel when he visited here Mar 21.

But she, too, saw no point — and considerable harm — in the West getting tough over Lithuania. After getting Havel's assurance, a 30-minute telephone call with Gorbachev to underline the appeals for restraint. But government sources said she made no demands and trusted Gorbachev to stick by pledges that troops would not open fire and there would be no Prague-style military crackdown.

"She always felt that if he said he would do something, then he would carry it out," said one senior British official, speaking on condition of anonymity. He summed up the government attitude, by saying: "He's riding a lot of tigers at once — don't put intolerable pressure on the man."

The New Statesman, a left-leaning British weekly, said the apology of Czechoslovakia should be matched by a forthright statement of support for Lithuania.

Palestinians trek to Israeli jobs

JENIN, West Bank, (Reuters): Each working day, a 55-year-old Palestinian builder gets up at two am to walk from his West Bank village to a job in Israel just a few miles away.

He must walk for four hours through the darkness across hills and olive groves, often harassed by Arab activists, who would turn him back as part of their struggle against Israeli occupation.

In a bitter irony, he and thousands like him would rather not work in Israel at all. But a 27-month-old uprising, begun to liberate the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Israeli rule, has left Palestinians more dependent than ever on work in the Jewish state.

"I want a Palestinian state for my people. But first I worry about my family. What can I do?" said the man, who takes home 1,000 shekels (\$500) a month from his job on an Israeli kibbutz, or collective settlement.

"Some days there are road blocks by (Palestinian) youngsters, or there are strikes (called by leaders of the uprising). If I stay home I lose money. And I have nine children to feed."

"If the youngsters tell me to go back home, I go back home because if I keep going they will throw stones. They'll call me a traitor," he said. Since the uprising began, at least 635 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis and nearly 200 by other Palestinians, mostly on suspicion of collaborating with Israel. Forty-four Jews have died.

The violence has drawn world attention to the 1.75 million Arabs living under Israeli rule since the 1967 Middle East war, and to their desire for a state of their own.

But despite brief interruptions the uprising has not stopped the flow of up to 120,000 workers, or more than a third of the Palestinian workforce, to Israel each day.

The number was the same before the uprising began, according to a study by the Israeli Labour Ministry. More than half work in construction and the rest in agriculture or textiles.

Rhetoric by the uprising leaders about building a self-sufficient economy in the occupied areas has not produced alternative jobs.

Damaging

The strikes, together with curfews imposed by Israeli troops that sometimes stop Palestinians going to work, have had a damaging effect.

A 60 per cent devaluation of the Jordanian dinar, the main currency in the West Bank, and tighter Israeli control on imports of money have also maintained Palestinians' dependence on Israeli jobs.

Trade union leaders add that heavy Israeli taxes have suffocated many small businesses in the occupied areas.

"People have to earn a living and since they have no alternative, they must work in Israel. It is not against Palestinian nationalism," it is stated in the survey, said Sabri Saidi, a labour activist in Arab East Jerusalem.

Sometimes, to avoid the difficult journey to work, Palestinians sleep on building sites or factory floors inside Israel. They risk arrest, as spending the night in the country is illegal.

Usually, the workers make a pre-dawn trek avoiding time-consuming security checks by Israeli troops as well as the uprisings militants.

During prolonged curfews (and strikes), Israeli employers fired many workers who could not work or arrived late.

"Some who have good ties with their employers were picked up by them a few hundred metres inside Gaza, but many lost their job security," a Palestinian journalist said.

Instead of being paid a monthly salary they began receiving their pay on daily or weekly basis depending on whether they managed to arrive," he said.

Legally

Salah Qutsh, a member of the executive committee of the United Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the West Bank, said last that half of the Palestinians from the territories who worked in Israel were legally registered.

The labour movement, not recognised in Israel, cannot fend for any West Bank workers. Palestinian workers are facing new competition — Soviet Jewish immigrants flooding into Israel and looking for jobs.

Between 10,000 and 15,000 Palestinians are likely to lose their jobs to Soviet immigrants in the next year, David Menna, director-general of Israel's State Employment Service, told Reuters.

During a prolonged curfew in Gaza in 1988, Israeli employers protested to the government that their Palestinian employees were unable to show up for work.

But many employers have got round the problem by increasing automation or tapping Israel's own unemployed.

When Gaza workers boycotted their jobs in Israel in August and September last year to protest at the imposition of identity cards, Israeli industry coped without them.

QUOTE ME

"The shuttle team is ready to fly. Hubble is one of the most exciting payloads ever launched aboard the shuttle, and we're looking forward to the mission." William J. Smith, associate administrator for the flight for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, said after the shuttle's launch.

"We woo the military industrial (struggle). We accelerated the renovation of the military leadership by 20 years. Now we are the head of the lance of Argentine society for the renovation of all the leadership that everyone is asking for." — former Lt Col Aldo Rico of Argentina during the retraining of the country's entire leadership.

"I tried to dominate the game with my forehead and keep up the pressure. To beat Jaime in Argentina is a triumph." — German Carli-Uwe Steff after beating Martin Jaita in a Davis Cup match.

"We warn the Japanese government to stop this. It is certain the revolution will advance by leaps and bounds in the coming 10 years. We may achieve total or partial victory within 10 years." NPA chief warning the Japanese government to assist from giving aid and emergency aid to Philippines.

"We will definitely intensify our attacks on US imperialism as it escalates its intervention in our country. Our central targets will be the colonial US troops and all US personnel involved in counter-insurgency." New People's Army (NPA) chief Romulo Kintanar.

Aquino still beset by problems

BACOLOD, Philippines, (Reuters): In the rolling sugar lands of Negros in the central Philippines, all the deep-rooted problems facing President Corazon Aquino join starkly together.

An entrenched communist insurgency is battling a largely feudal land-owning system. The military is under fire for uprooting large populations in its drive to counter the rebels.

The influential Roman Catholic church is divided over how to combat poverty and the long-running insurrection.

Many villages are without drinkable running water. Only half have electricity. Many workers do not get even the minimum wage.

Poverty

Two-thirds of the population live below the government's official poverty line, earning under \$93 a month for a household of six.

Rapid population growth threatens to undercut any economic gains the government might make, but the church is opposed to artificial means of family planning.

Four years after being swept to power in a popular revolt which ended the 20-year authoritarian rule of Ferdinand Marcos, Aquino is still grappling with a daunting array of difficulties.

Negros Occidental Governor Daniel Lacson has an ambitious 15-year plan to turn the island which

grows about 55 per cent of the country's sugar into a "mini-Taiwan," through industrialisation and diversification of agriculture.

Top of his list of concerns is population growth. He wants to curb annual growth to under 1.5 per cent by the end of the plan period, against the present rapid 2.4 per cent yearly increase.

"But it's a sensitive issue. The Roman Catholic church is against artificial means of birth control, so we have to approach this tangentially, not head-on," Lacson said.

Bacolod's Bishop Camilo Gregorio plays down the impact of population growth. "It's more a problem of distribution of resources than population expansion," he said, referring to the more than 70 per cent of the local population who live below the government's official poverty line.

Aquino made battling poverty one of her key national objectives and cut the number of people living below the poverty line to less than 50 per cent from around 60 per cent in the past four years.

She is using a multi-billion dollar aid programme from the World Bank, Japan and the United States to inject funds into the poorest areas and to develop industrial zones across the archipelago of 60 million people.

But Lacson complains that development remains

unco-ordinated and largely focused on the Manila region, which attracts the bulk of both domestic and overseas investment and draws skilled labour from other areas.

In an interview with Reuters he called for clear tax incentives for firms to move outside Manila.

Acute inequalities in the distribution of wealth underlie the continued communist insurgency, a severe problem in Negros, where many labourers almost starved when the price of sugar plunged on world markets in the mid-1980s.

Major land-owning families are opposed to the government's scheme to break up feudal estates and provide land to the landless. They are worried by moves by the local military to disarm their private security forces following a coup attempt in Manila last December.

"It just leaves us wide open to attack by the (guerrilla) New People's Army," said one prominent landowner.

As in the rest of the country, the military says it is cutting back communist guerrilla strength.

Abuses

But alleged human rights abuses by the military and local militia are a frequent complaint. "It's very important that the military behaves," says pro-Aquino landowner Eduardo Alunan.

Beware of cheats

SIR: It is the earnest desire of every parent, to make his/her child a doctor, an engineer or a manager. Hastily, they go for paying the huge sums without checking the authenticity of the institutions or the people behind it! Recent closure of a medical college, in South India, opened the eyes of many who already lost lakhs paid for education.

I am writing this as a victim of a similar case to warn other Indians to beware of frauds. Recently, a notorious swindler who has been in this area, ran away to Kerala after cheating many here, and started making publicity that he has got a licence to open a dental college in South India.

His partner is still active in business in Kuwait. He acts as his agent here by collecting money from those parents who want to make their children "dentists." Please beware of these frauds — they will take you easily into their confidence — but you will lose your hard-earned money. The very moment they approach you, please inform the authorities to nab them. As long as the "greed" of the parents remains, these greedy swindlers will flourish and they appear in dif-

ferent "forms" in different places with the ultimate goal of cheating others! Education is the best area for this aim!!

A victim,
(Name & address supplied).

Restart Urdu pages

SIR: I am a Pakistani who is writing to the Arab Times on behalf of hundreds, perhaps thousands of Urdu readers. The abolition of Urdu pages has dealt a severe blow on us and we are therefore appealing passionately to your paper to recommence the pages. We hope this letter will get a positive response from your daily.

Saleem Pervaz,
Dasmun.

Married bachelors

SIR: I enjoy reading your Day by Day column. I wish to convey good wishes from a "married bachelor" living

in constant agony of separation from dears and nears. Life without immediate relatives is a long nightmare and one feels as if he is living in a vacuum.

I suggest that any employer who has stable and secure job working for the same employer for the last five or say ten years can deposit K.D 1000 or 2000 as long as one wishes to keep a family here in Kuwait. Please give some more coverage for lives of this special and unique category — "married bachelors." It is not only beneficial for Kuwait economy but it also reduces anxiety and plight of expatriates.

I hope in this era of prosperity and democracy, the concerned authorities will make this dream come true.

Mohammed Ali,
Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

'Israeli occupation will end within 5 years'

MADRID, April 1, (Kuna): High Commissioner of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Giorgio Giacomelli yesterday predicted that the ongoing Palestinian uprising will last long and that Israeli occupation of the Arab territories will end within five years.

Giacomelli said the Palestinian people are determined more than ever to end the Israeli occupation and their heroic intifada represents a great contribution toward achieving such a goal.

He indicated that the Israelis, who used to think that the uprising will end by time, have now lost hope in halting the intifada.

Speaking exclusively to Kuna, the inter-

national official said that he will confer tomorrow with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Tunis, adding that he holds continuous contacts with the PLO which "helps (him) a lot."

About current situation in the occupied Gaza Strip, Giacomelli said half of the population live in refugee camps where they lack the minimum level of basic health and life care.

He spoke extensively about the severe Israeli oppression of Palestinians in the occupied lands, stressing that in addition to the killing and wounding that are results of such brutal practices, "the oppression has dangerous consequences on the econ-

omy and the Palestinian social structure."

The Italian diplomat, who took office as high commissioner five years ago, said that UNRWA faces many difficulties from Israeli occupation authorities in order to carry out its mission toward helping the Palestinian people.

Regarding Arab contribution to the UNRWA budget, Giacomelli said that the Arab League has made three decisions during the past three years to raise its contribution from \$7 million to \$16 million.

Giacomelli, who left here yesterday winding up a two-day working visit to Spain,

added that he has been waiting for the fulfilment of these resolutions and said he will discuss this matter with Arab League secretary general Chadi Klubi in Tunis tomorrow.

On his visit to Spain, Giacomelli said that he conferred with Spanish Secretary General for Foreign Affairs Fernando Perpinas on situation in the Palestinian refugee camps in the occupied lands and Lebanon.

The UNRWA chief praised Spain's stance toward the Palestinian refugees, saying that Spain's contribution to UNRWA reached \$2 million in 1990.

Rebels hit Kandahar airport

Tanai vows to deal another blow

ISLAMABAD, April 1, (Agencies): US-backed Afghan rebels said yesterday they destroyed a military transport plane in a rocket attack on the airport in the southern city of Kandahar.

A statement by the government-in-exile set up last year by Afghan resistance leaders in Pakistan said rebels also attacked government positions last week around Kandahar, 270 miles (460 km) southwest of Kabul, killing 21 militiamen and wounding 13.

There was no word from the pro-Soviet government in Kabul on the reports, which could not independently confirmed.

The rebels, who are based mostly in Pakistan and backed by the United States and some Middle East nations, control about 90 per cent of Afghanistan's territory.

But they have failed to capture any major urban centres since the withdrawal in February last year of Soviet troops backing the Kabul regime and are desperate for a military victory to boost their contention they are still capable of ousting the government of President Najibullah.

Hekmatyar replaced as foreign minister

PESHAWAR, April 1, (AP): Fundamentalist rebel leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has been replaced as foreign minister for the Afghan rebel government-in-exile, the official news agency of the resistance said yesterday.

Sibghatulla Mojaddidi, president of the so-called interim government, said the post would be filled by Burhanuddin Rabbani, the Mida news agency reported.

Rabbani, the government-in-exile's minister of reconstruction, is leader of the more moderate Jamiat-Islami faction of the fractious seven-party Muslim rebel coalition fighting the Afghan government.

His faction is considered the most politically and militarily organised group in the Pakistani-based resistance.

Rabbani's group is a bitter rival of the Hezb-e-Islami party headed by Hekmatyar. There have been widespread reports of fighting between the two groups.

The news agency said Hekmatyar quit as foreign minister last year.

"I had long ago decided to induce Professor Rabbani to this post, but due to certain problems, the decision was implemented now," Mojaddidi told Mida.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is very important and in view of this, he (Rabbani) has been appointed as foreign minister," the news agency said.

Hekmatyar, 42, is known for his outspoken contempt of the West.

Despite the rhetoric, he has received the bulk of the US arms sent to the mujahideen during the nearly 12-year-old war against the Soviet-backed government of Afghanistan.

Following the March 6 coup attempt in Afghanistan, the leaders of the other six parties quickly criticised Hekmatyar for publicly supporting the mutiny led by Gen. Shah Nawaz Tanai.

Iraq heading toward nuke capability

Pre-emptive strike unlikely

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 1, (AP): Revelations that Iraq is working toward nuclear capability have raised Arab fears that Israel will repeat its 1981 pre-emptive strike against Iraq, but an Israeli political analyst said yesterday that such an attack was unlikely.

"The situation in the Middle East has changed since 1981," said Amatzia Bar-Am, an Iraq specialist at Haifa University, referring to Israel's 1981 bombing of Iraq's nuclear reactor.

"Iraq now has missiles, and they are telling us in so many words that they will be using them if we strike," Bar-Am told the Associated Press. "I don't think Israel would be foolish enough to start this kind of cycle of violence."

US newspaper reports, citing classified CIA material, have said Iraq has positioned missile launchers in the western part of the country, placing the missiles within range of Tel Aviv.

The Israeli government has adopted a policy of silence following Wednesday's arrest in London of five people in connection with an alleged plot to smuggle nuclear triggers to Iraq.

"We have no comment on it. It's something that happened between England and Iraq," Foreign Ministry spokesman Yossi Amihud said yesterday. Aides to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir also have refused comment.

Political observers said Israel's verbal restraint was a sign that it did not want to escalate tensions with Iraq, one of the most implacable enemies of the Jewish state in the Middle East.

Iraq meanwhile has accelerated rhetoric. Responding to the arrests in Britain, Iraq's Deputy Foreign Minister, Nizar Hamdoun, said Thursday that "the current British campaign is trying to provide the groundwork for an Israeli aggression against Iraq, reminding us of the year 1981."

But Bar-Am said another strike was practically unfeasible. He noted that unlike in 1981, when the Osirak nuclear reactor near Baghdad provided a clear target for Israeli warplanes, Iraq's current nuclear programme was spread across the country.

"There is no easily identifiable target that you hit and then get rid of the whole nuclear option," he said. "There doesn't seem to exist anywhere an atomic reactor."

Israeli military analysts have estimated that Iraq is less than five years away from developing nuclear weapons, and that it was making rapid strides in producing other unconventional weapons.

The four-nation Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) assailed Britain and Western media for their treatment of one of its members, Iraq.

The TPLF, fighting in alliance with the smaller Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (EPDM), said it had also gained new areas, including the town of Alem Ketema.

"This offensive puts us in a stronger position than we have ever been," TPLF chairman Meles Zenawi told Reuters in Nairobi by telephone from Rome.

The warplanes together with transport aircraft and support troops are being deployed from French bases at the Chadian capital of N'djamena and Bouar in the Central African Republic, said the sources.



Iraqi airline official, Omar Latif (centre) is surrounded by police and immigration officers at Heathrow airport prior to being deported from Britain. (Reuters wirephoto)

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Bazoff is buried: A British journalist executed in Iraq for alleged spying was buried Saturday in London.

Iranian-born Farzad Bazoff was hanged on March 15 in Baghdad. The 32-year-old had lived in London and worked for the London weekly the Observer. (AP)

Rockets fired at Israel: Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas fired two Soviet-made rockets at Israel from southern Jordan this week, Jordanian officials said on Saturday.

One of the Katyusha rockets fired from the Wadi Araba area on Thursday fell into the Dead Sea. The other exploded harmlessly inside Israeli territory, one official said. (Reuters)

South Yemen to revamp posts: Ali Salem Al Beidi, the acknowledged strongman in Marxist-ruled South Yemen since the civil war of 1986, is expected to become the official head of state, it was disclosed on Saturday.

The political bureau of the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party is currently discussing the possibility of revamping the top posts in the country, apparently to set its house in order in preparation for the merger with North Yemen, party sources said. (AP)

Iraq switches to summer time: Iraq switched to summer time at midnight on Saturday, moving clocks forward one hour to four hours ahead of GMT. (Reuters)

Rebel leaders gather: After repeated postponements over the past two months, leaders of four Eritrean rebel factions were assembled in the North Yemeni capital on Saturday for a second round of talks with Ethiopia.

The talks are expected to begin late Sunday.

The Ethiopian government delegation, expected to be led by a member of the central committee of the ruling party in Addis Ababa, had not arrived as of Saturday afternoon. (AP)

Direct talks with Morocco: Polisario guerrillas will hold break-through talks with Morocco soon to discuss a referendum that could end the conflict in western Sahara, guerrilla leader Mohammed Abdelaziz said.

"There will soon be direct meetings between the two belligerents under the aegis of the United Nations," Abdelaziz said on Algerian television on Friday night. (Reuters)

Arafat accepts invitation: Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has accepted an official invitation by Sri Lanka President Ranasinghe Premadasa to visit his country on a date to be agreed on later.

Palestinian news agency said on Saturday that the message was delivered by the chairman of Sri Lanka parliament during his meeting with President Arafat in India last week. Sri Lanka has recently severed diplomatic relations with Israel. (Kuna)

Iran envoy in Beirut talks on hostages

BEIRUT, April 1, (Reuters): Iran has sent the brother of President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to Lebanon for the second time this month to discuss the release of Western hostages, a senior Muslim security source said yesterday.

The sources told Reuters that Mahmoud Rafsanjani arrived 10 days ago and had met many officials of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah which is thought, despite its denials, to be holding most of the 17 Western hostages in Lebanon.

Among those he met were Sheikh Mohammed Hussain Fadallah, spiritual mentor of Hezbollah, and Hussein Mussawi, a prominent Hizbollah figure in eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, the source said.

He said Mohammed Rafsanjani, who is director of the Middle East Department at the Foreign Ministry, was trying to keep a low profile during the visit and may have left Lebanon yesterday.

The hostages are usually kept in hideouts in Beirut's Shiite southern suburbs or in the ancient town of Baalbeck in eastern Lebanon — both strongholds of Hezbollah.

Mahmoud Rafsanjani paid a previous, unannounced visit to Lebanon west Beirut early this month amid reports of secret negotiations between Tehran and Washington aimed at securing the release of the hostages.

Hezbollah General Secretary Sheikh Souhbi Toofani told Reuters on Friday that Iran could use its influence to solve the problems of "some hostages."

But he said Western states should make concessions to Tehran and its Lebanese allies. "He who wants something from Iran should pay the price."

The Tehran Times fuelled optimism last month by calling for the unconditional release of the hostages, saying the West was using the issue to tarnish the image of Muslims.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Rafsanjani said on March 7 that the issue was moving towards a solution. An Iranian Foreign Ministry official said last week the captives could be freed by January.

Mussawi said last week the hostage crises would be solved but added that the kidnappers would expect something in return.

Ethiopian rebels claim big push

NAIROBI, April 1, (Reuters): Rebels in northern Ethiopia said yesterday they had advanced to within 160 km (100 miles) of the capital Addis Ababa in a major offensive over the past week.

The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said the rebels had retaken parts of southern Wollo and Shoa provinces, lost to the government in fighting over the past three months.

The TPLF, fighting in alliance with the smaller Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement (EPDM), said it had also gained new areas, including the town of Alem Ketema.

"This offensive puts us in a stronger position than we have ever been," TPLF chairman Meles Zenawi told Reuters in Nairobi by telephone from Rome.

The warplanes together with transport aircraft and support troops are being deployed from French bases at the Chadian capital of N'djamena and Bouar in the Central African Republic, said the sources.

France currently has some 10,000 troops stationed in Chad. But only 100 of these are based in the east of the country at the city of Abeche, some 150 miles (250 km) southeast of an area on the Sudanese border.

Fighting broke out in the area a week ago between Chadian troops and about 2,500 members of the "Islamic Legion", a Libyan-backed force consisting partly of mercenaries and led by the Sudanese rebel Chadian commander Idriss Deby.

Only about 30 French civilians live in Abeche but French influence is strong in Chad, a former French colony that has

Libyan envoys expelled

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia, April 1, (AP): The government expelled two Libyan diplomats yesterday following a minor explosion the night before in a hotel where the Israeli Ambassador lives.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs accused the Libyans of "activities incompatible" with their diplomatic status and said their continued presence in the country "would be prejudicial to the national security of Ethiopia."

It identified them as Ali A. Awidan, a senior member of the Libyan Embassy, and Saied S. Saied, an administrative officer.

The expulsions followed the explosion of what Ethiopian officials described as a time bomb in a men's bathroom at the Addis Ababa Hilton.

No injuries were reported, and only minor damage was caused by a bomb, the Ministry of Internal Affairs said.



A Christian family packs its belongings on the top of their car and flee battered East Beirut to a safer area. Rival Christian forces gave thousands of terrified civilians a few hours rest before resuming artillery battles in Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)

Christians flee to west Beirut

House-to-house combat

BEIRUT, April 1, (AP): Rival forces battled into a third month for control of Lebanon's Christian enclave yesterday, hammering east Beirut with artillery barrages after night-long combat house to house under parachute flares.

Police said rebel army Gen. Michel Aoun's 155mm Howitzer batteries poured shells onto Beirut's port and the adjacent seaside Karantina district housing the military command of Christian warlord Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces militia.

Geagea's gunners blasted the army-held mountain resort towns of Bekfaya, Brummana and Ein Saadeh with multi-barrelled rocket launchers.

"Why are these madmen raining death and destruction on us all over again?" screamed Madeleine Tabet, a Christian housewife reached by telephone at the basement of her home in east Beirut's Badaro district.

The bombardment interrupted an exodus of east Beirut residents fleeing to the divided city's Muslim sector. Cars in long queues bumped into other as motorists driving westward through a crossing at the port came under shellfire.

Police said at least 52 people were killed and 110 wounded since the new round of full-scale warfare erupted at dawn Friday between Aoun's 19,000 army troops and the 6,000 militiamen of Geagea's Lebanese Forces.

The new round of fighting collapsed a March 3 ceasefire which had been threatened by sporadic clashes for weeks.

That raised the overall toll to 828 killed and 2,266 wounded since Jan 30, when Aoun moved against Geagea in a bid to crush the only significant challenge to the general's authority in the 310-square-mile (800-square-kilometer) Christian enclave.

Huge clouds of black smoke obscured east Beirut and the Christian hinterland as the shelling raged yesterday setting dozens of buildings ablaze and touching off forest fires.

Shells hit schools, churches, monasteries, apartments and bakeries in Beirut's Christian sector and several towns in Kesrouan province, 20 miles (30 km) northeast of the capital.

Police said gasoline storage tanks at several filling stations hit Friday burned out of control through Saturday. Scores of houses collapsed, some of their tenants.

Parachute flares illuminated Kesrouan as the warring Christians earlier battled at night for the key highway town of Kleiat and neighbouring villages, police reported.

"They are fighting from house to house in Kleiat and trading hit-and-run grenade assaults in the streets of east Beirut. The dust hasn't settled yet but no side has made any territorial gains," said the police spokesman.

Kleiat controls the only highway that can be used by tanks between Kesrouan, a major Geagea stronghold, and Aoun's main power bases in Meln province.

Tens of thousands of residents remained huddled in basements and bomb shelters in east Beirut for a second day while hundreds of families sought refuge in the chilly pine forests of Kesrouan, the spokesman said.

Mrs Tabet called on Maronite Christian Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir to carry out a threat to excommunicate Aoun and Geagea if they keep on fighting.

But she said, "It's not enough to just threaten with excommu-

ication. He should even have them banged."

Sfeir made the threat Friday. Both Aoun and Geagea are Maronites, the 900,000-strong sect that has dominated Lebanon politically since it gained independence from France in 1943.

Geagea's public calls for a settlement based on vowing unanimous Christian allegiance to the government of Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi is gaining momentum.

Antoine Beshara, a Maronite who heads Lebanon's 300,000-strong federation of labour unions, has declared for Hrawi. Hrawi's internationally recognised government is based in Muslim west Beirut.

Israelis rally against rabbi remarks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 1, (AP): Thousands of Israelis yesterday attended a rally to protest against remarks by a leading ultra-orthodox rabbi who denounced the secular lifestyle of kibbutzim, Israel's communal agricultural settlements.

The speech by Rabbi Eliezer Schach has caused an uproar in Israel, with the secular left and right speaking out against what they consider attempts at religious coercion.

In his speech last Monday, Schach cast doubt on the Jewishness of kibbutzniks who are held in high esteem because they were at the forefront of settling and defending the country.

"There are kibbutzniks that don't know what Yom Kippur is or the Sabbath... and they raise

(non-kosher) rabbits and pigs," said the 93-year-old Schach, spiritual leader of the Shas and Degel Matorah parties. "Do they have any links with their forefathers?"

In yesterday's rally, the leader of the Socialist Mapam Party, Yacov Hasan, called on Israelis to fight religious intolerance.

"We are not ready to accept the rule of the Rabbi Schach. This is a rule of darkness. We will fight against this until there is pluralism in this country," Hasan told about 15,000 kibbutzniks gathered at kibbutz Mishmar Haemek in northern Israel.

Rafael Eitan, former army chief of staff and head of the right-wing Tzomet Party, urged Schach to "go to the cemeteries, go to the kibbutzim and see who

built this country."

In occupied Jerusalem dozens of Israelis gathered in front of the parliament building, or Knesset, to express support for two army reserve officers who entered the fourth day of a hunger strike yesterday to press for a change in the electoral system.

The protest came as Labour Party leader Shimon Peres was trying to form a new government, but appeared unable to break a deadlock with the rival Likud bloc.

The hunger strikers circulated a petition, signed by hundreds of Israelis, which demands that President Chaim Herzog block the formation of a new government until the electoral system has been reformed, Israel television reported.

Libya has denied any involvement in the fighting. Forces loyal to Hissene Habre carried out a series of raids into Sudanese territory against the rebels in October and November.

French build-up in Chad is an 'implicit warning' to Libya to halt attacks

PARIS, April 1, (UPI): Defence Ministry sources said yesterday France is sending 15 more combat aircraft as well as extra troops to eastern Chad as an "implicit warning" to Libyan leader Col Moammar Khaddafi to halt attacks by his forces on Chadian President Hissene Habre's soldiers.

The warplanes together with transport aircraft and support troops are being deployed from French bases at the Chadian capital of N'djamena and Bouar in the Central African Republic, said the sources.

France currently has some 10,000 troops stationed in Chad. But only 100 of these are based in the east of the country at the city of Abeche, some 150 miles (250 km) southeast of an area on the Sudanese border.

Fighting broke out in the area a week ago between Chadian troops and about 2,500 members of the "Islamic Legion", a Libyan-backed force consisting partly of mercenaries and led by the Sudanese rebel Chadian commander Idriss Deby.

Only about 30 French civilians live in Abeche but French influence is strong in Chad, a former French colony that has

fought an on-again off-again war with Libyan forces over the mineral-rich Aouzou strip since 1973.

Defence Ministry officials described the "limited reinforcement" of French forces in the West African nation as "an implicit warning" to the Libyan-backed forces that captured the towns of Baba and Tine on the Chadian-Sudanese border last week that Paris intends to project the Habre government.

Regular Chadian Army units are believed to have regrouped at Iriba, some 36 miles (60 km) to the west of the Sudanese border. The French Defence Ministry

said Friday in a statement that "clashes having taken place in the east of Chad, a limited reinforcement of the Epervier force has been decided."

The reinforcement was decided "in agreement with the Chadian authorities," said the French statement, "in order to guarantee the security of French troops present in that region."

Libya has denied any involvement in the fighting. Forces loyal to Hissene Habre carried out a series of raids into Sudanese territory against the rebels in October and November.

EVENTS

Meet a neighbour

Umm Mohammed at Souk Al Hareem

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

AS I entered Souk Al Hareem, the familiar smell of pure traditional spices floated and wafted through my nostrils. The women were introducing their products by gestulating and shouting to draw the attention of prospective customers.

I walked through the narrow aisle and my ears were pierced with the sound of *Khoira, Dra'a, Athwab*. I made my way to the centre where I found Umm Mohammed sitting modestly on a very simple stall made of bricks and covered with a green and white checked rug.

She was a little difficult to find due to being completely covered by the traditional Kuwaiti costume, that is the black abaya and the veil.

I had come to like this "little old lady" several years ago through obtaining some of my personal requirements. I liked her for personal simplicity and gentle, humorous nature.

Her products were accumulated in front of her and as she reached out to fold a head-dress I spotted blue bulging veins against the black-drops of thin white hands.

A pumice stone caught my eye, I picked it up and asked Umm

Mohammed how much it cost. She answered in a slightly cold tone but I persisted speaking to her in my usual friendly manner in the hope of eventually obtaining at least in part a story on her professional activities.

Eventually, she agreed to tell her life history. The first obstacle was removed.

I was curious to see how she looked under the veil. My request brought a certain level of discomfort. Again I had to go through the ordeal of giving her faith and trust from my side and again won.

Umm Mohammed selling abayas, khotras, sarawel and other things for more than forty years in Souk Al Hareem makes her living from this very simple stall.

She is among a few number of old Kuwaiti women, reviving this activity in the souk. She started her profession during the rule of the late Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Ahmed Al Jaber.

This very simple stall she owns means every thing to her, the old, the present and the past of her 70-year existence.

Queried about moving her stall for another better location in one of the new buildings surrounding the souk, she vehemently refused.

"I am rooted to this place, it is a piece of my property, it has

come to be a part and parcel of my very being. I want to be here and will not move until the last day of my life," Umm Mohammed said.

The mother of three sons and six daughters believes in education and equality between men and women. Although she studies Holy Quran in Mottwa's school "school for teaching Holy Quran" yet she admitted encouraging her sons and daughters to study. This fruitful push towards her children resulted in their being placed in senior positions in different ministries.

"Every thing has changed so accordingly we have to change in our thinking but not in our manners," said Umm Mohammed. She resented the enormous changes that society is passing through. She said that people now, act individually not as one family team while in the past they were very linked with each other and helpful.

"In the past people had good neighbourly relations, although they were very poor. Now, although they are rich, they are impoverished, in their outlook and thinking and behaviour in general lacks a certain level of good neighbourliness," she said.

The souk, close to her heart is the primitive old Souk Al Hareem where people knew each other. People at that time would

cover their goods with a piece of material and go home to sleep. Now the souk is bigger, strangers are roaming everywhere and goods have to be taken back home. This sense of insecurity is a modern development, she said.

Old days in the souk means a lot to her. She was making four rupees a day that afforded her living for one week. However, after the boom arising from returns of oil wealth, the amount of KD10, she earns each day, barely suffices to make her daily ends meet.

Umm Mohammed started selling in this souk at the age of nine. Her mother who used to bake bread provided her with the first item of sale.

She was living in Seif area near Noga' Al Shamalan. The primitive mode of transport to the area was via a donkey. She rode them on unpaved roads, full of potholes, crossing alleys where the houses looked muddy and appeared they would collapse at any moment.

The Kuwaiti woman with her abaya, said she used to sell *dar'as*, abayas, domestically stitched for forty rupees. Now every thing is imported and a single *thoub*, Kuwaiti embroidered dress cost KD150.

"People in the past purchased their needs from old women regardless of their appearance.

Now, people prefer buying anything from good-looking and young non-Kuwaiti women.

"Buyers from the souk nowadays shun women like me," Umm Mohammed said. This statement really brought a pang to my heart. Honest, hard labour unfortunately, is no longer appreciated.

She keeps her treasure "documents of owning this simple stall" in a small purse wrapped in a piece of cloth around her waist.

Umm Mohammed moved to live in the Salmiya area over 25 years ago and, is daily driven to the souk by her son. Asked about her likes and dislikes, she said, she enjoys watching TV programmes specially the Arabic films and the news.

Umm Mohammed remembers the first TV brought to her during the late sixties. She was very happy to see people appearing and how she searched the box to find the people hiding in that box, she laughed when she told me.

As a regular TV watcher, Umm Mohammed has her own political views on current issues in the Arab world. She praised the Palestinian intifada and cursed the Israelis as a thorn in the Arab body. She also wished a speedy end to Lebanon war. She likes travelling outside

Kuwait and has visited several countries such as Turkey, Syria and Iraq with her daughters and sons. "I saw many beautiful countries, with green pastures, but Kuwait with its severe climate is the best place to me on Earth," she said.

About her dislikes she cited the newcomers to the souk. The merchant who deceives his customers and the current transactions among merchants using cheques instead of cash money, she added.

An active woman, Umm Mohammed is famous for selling benna to women. This benna is brought from Sudan and Iraq, she said.

The first time she used bennas was when she got married at the age of 12. Now she is an expert in distinguishing different qualities of benna and advises the people on its usages.

Umm Mohammed, who considers herself as a part of this souk, wished that such areas as old souks not be demolished, rather, she said, authorities should endeavour to maintain them, as artefacts reflecting Kuwait's glorious heritage. The Kuwaiti old monuments such as Souk Al Hareem, Souk Al Gharabali and old mosques in the Monbarakiya area should be respected, looked after and renovated with utmost urgency.



TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

- 1.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 1.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.30 World animals: Cultural serial
- 2.00 Kabool adventures: Cartoon serial
- 2.30 Maa Al Sabereen: Historical serial (Part 7)
- 3.10 Human health: Cultural programme (Part 7)
- 3.35 Qababday Babool: Arabic serial (Part 7)
- 4.15 Rasal Al Ekha: Local programme
- 4.30 Rafat Al Hajar: Arabic serial (Part 7)
- 5.35 Hadeeth Deeni: Religious programme, presented by Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi
- 6.15 After Ifar: Religious feature
- 6.30 Mazenger journey: Cartoon serial
- 7.00 Local children serial (Part 7)
- 7.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
- 8.15 Security and citizens: Local programme, prepared by the Ministry of Interior
- 9.00 Juhayna: Cultural programme (Part 7)
- 9.45 Sawalef Min Al Madbi: Local programme (Part 7)
- 10.00 News in Arabic
- 10.45 The family: Local serial (Part 7)
- 12.00 Share Al Mawardi: Arabic serial (Part 7)

- 1.15 A cultural late night feature with guests: Abdullah Zakariya Al Ansari, prepared and presented by Amal Abdullah
- 2.30 News Summary
- 2.35 The World Today via Satellite
- 2.50 Holy Quran and Cutdown

KTV 2

- 8.00 Opening: amount cement & Holy Quran
- 8.10 Dinosaurs: A cartoon series for children
- 8.30 Charles in Charge: 9.00 News in English
- 9.30 Welcome Ramadan: A religious programme on the occasion of Holy Ramadan
- 10.15 The Equalizer: "Past Imperfect" - The company plants an agent in a criminal "Cartel" where they unveil his secret mission through his ex-wife and son "McCall" stops them and unveils another secret agent in the "Company"
- 11.00 Family Matters: "Carl" convinces his wife "Henriette" to receive his mother at home
- 11.30 A classic coloured film "The Sea Hawk" Starring: Errol Flynn, Flora Robson, Brenda Marshall
- 1.30 News in brief
- 1.45 Magazine D'Actualite

CINEMA TODAY

- Al Andalus Street Justice
- Al Sahmiah Malone
- Al Hamra Arabic film
- Drive-in Arabic film
- Al Firdous Aakhri Baazi
- Fahad Open Hissab Khooon Ka
- Al Jalra Bora Anjessan
- Granada Al Mawardi
- Top Cinema

- Sulhikat Suicide Force
- Jeeb Mastan
- Abnadi Drive-in
- Range of Ninjas

PRAYERS	
Israk	4.06 am
Fajr	4.16 am
Zuhr	12.52 pm
Asr	3.33 pm
Maghrib	6.07 pm
Isha	7.25 pm

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery

INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Bits 'n' Pieces

An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

SOCIAL

Hyderabad

The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad (IDECEN) invites essays in either Urdu, Telugu or English languages in not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Quli Qutub Shah - the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her (for school students only).

The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadis and their children residing in Kuwait.

A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990.

All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convenor Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

Ladies International League
L.I.L.'s Summer Bazaar is now being held at the Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel in the exhibition hall on Friday, May 11 from 10 am to 6 pm. All inquiries contact Ceilia on 5325131.

Swedish Ladies Meeting
The Swedish ladies will hold a coffee afternoon on April 3, Tuesday. For further details call 5317473.

Holy Week 1990

Holy Family Cathedral - Kuwait

Palm and Passion Sunday: 8th April - 7.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 3.25 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 4.30 pm, Holy Mass (English); 5.45 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.55 pm, Holy Mass (English).

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of the Holy Week: 9th, 10th, 11th April - 7.15 am, Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm, Confession; 6.30 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm, Holy Mass & Retreat (Malayalam - in big hall).

Maundy Thursday: 12th April - 7.00 am, Concelebrated Mass of Chrism (English); 4.00 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.30 pm, Solemn Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper (English); 9.00 pm, Adoration (English - in big hall).

Good Friday: 13th April (Day of fast and abstinence) - 7.00 am, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Malayalam); 9.00 am, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 2.30 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Konkani); 4.00 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 5.30 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English).

Holy Saturday: 14th April - 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm Confessions; 8.00 pm, Easter Vigil Mass (English).

Easter Sunday: 15th April - 7.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 9.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 10.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 11.30 am, Holy Mass (French in big hall); 12.00 noon Holy Mass (English); 4.00 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm, Holy Mass (Malayalam in big hall).

Indian Cuisine Centre
Indian art of fancied lac bangles and designful henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant. Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

Sindhu Devi
PADMASREE Dr. K.J. Yesudas and leading famous play back singer Miss Sindhu Devi is coming to Kuwait to perform two days musical concert on April 24th and 25th 1990 in Granada Theatre, Kheitan.

Saligaocars

CALLING all Saligaocars... to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam, at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel. No. 2406936 (Res), Aloos Carvalho, 2411442 Res. 246121, Americo Remedios, Res. 3983348 and Paul D'Cruz, Res. 2444729. Tony Cordeiro off. 2415401, Res. 2412337.

PAC's Silver Jubilee

THE organising committee of the Pakistan Arts Circle will celebrate PAC's Silver Jubilee on Thursday, the 27th April, 1990 at 9 pm. The programme will include variety of programme and "Sham-e-Ghazal". Our earlier artist will present his wonderful performance, and is being invited from Pakistan.

Reservations are open to all families. All are kindly requested to book their seats well before 15th April, 1990. For more information contact 4716258.

British Council

The British Council working hours during the Holy month of Ramadan: General office Saturday to Wednesday 7.30 to 14.00; Library Saturday to Wednesday 9.00 to 12.30, 16.00 to 19.00; Thursday: 9.00 to 1.20.

Ladies International League

L.I.L.'s BIG MEETING: Monday, April 2, 1990 from 7 pm to 10 pm Sheraton Hotel Ballroom A. This month's programme shall be health, exercise and jazzercise. Audience participation welcomed but not required. Please join us for fun, refreshment, entertainment and socialising. Doors open at 7 pm, refreshments at 7.30 and programme starts at 8 pm sharp. Doors shall close at 7.45 pm sharp.

Quran Khawani

A meeting was held at the residence of Nazir Dogar under the Chairmanship of Dr Riaz Ahmed Mahesar, president Pakistan People's Club, regarding the observance of 11 death anniversary of former prime minister and chairman Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto on April 4. The meeting was attended by all central executive committee members. It was decided to hold Quran Khawani at the residence of Haji Qamar at 4 pm on April 4 1990. All members are invited.

Approb Eld dinner

ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen is organising a Gala Eid Milan Party on the second day of Eid Al Fitr, an Approb press release said.

The Gala Party programme will include dinner, music, songs, comedy and a colourful display of Pakistani national costumes, the press release said. The venue of the party will be announced shortly.

There will be special entertainment and games for children under the age of ten. A lucky draw with attractive prizes and American auction will be held for the benefit of needy students of Pakistan schools in Kuwait.

Kuwait Little Theatre

KUWAIT Little Theatre will present a St. George's Night show on Wednesday 18th April. Stage crew, wood hutchers and set painters are required now. Set construction begins on Saturday 31st March at 6.30 pm in the theatre. Call the stage manager on 3725407 for details.

Approb essay competition

ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (Approb) is holding an essay competition on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Pakistan Resolution.

Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays on the topic "My role in building a better Pakistan". The essays between 1000 and 1500 words, in Urdu or English, should be sent by 15th of April.

Four prizes of KD100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants.

The panel of judges is headed by Dr M.J. Saleem, Dr Ali Jafrey and Abdul Sattar Gbazali. For further details, contact: Tel. Approb, 2425315, Fax. 5323751.

Guardian Angel Club

The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorocho Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Rennie J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC, Goan Charlie Chaplin - Jancito Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britton and Seby Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

Summer Affair '90

THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a Jive Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Jufio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Narmada's Malayalam play

NARMADA Theatres will be staging a social Malayalam play, A Love Mantra From Ujjain, at Indian Arts Circle auditorium, Funaites on Friday, May 11, 1990 at 6.30 pm. Written by Varghese Paul, lyrics by Rajendra Babu, music by Antony Joseph, the play is co-directed by Sherry John and directed by Jayan Pattathu. Various characters are being represented by popular stage artists among the Malayalee community in Kuwait.

Rose Ferns' drama

MAY 10-11: Expatriates Club proudly announces that Goa's celebrated king of century shows Rose Ferns, and his sixteen member troupe, will present at the Granada Cinema hall, Kheitan, his premier release in Kuwait "Xinxex" (Broken Glass) and "Beiman Tum" (You Ungrateful) which has already crossed the hundred-plus mark in Goa. More details later.

Konkani non-stop show

A Konkani non-stop show entitled Koxit Ani Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Utorada, organised by Utorada Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawalli.

For more information contact 4817857.

HOTELS

Mughal Mahal

FIRST Indian restaurant to introduce Mughlai cuisine in Kuwait. Enjoy our specialties such as: Khandari Tikka Mal Mali Kebab, Navratan Briyani and lots more. Ramadan timings. Carry away pick ups from 5 pm onwards. Dine in from 6 pm to 2 am. Tele. 2425131/2.

Holiday Inn

Ramadan Activities: COFFEE SHOP: Lavish buffet of traditional Arabic cuisine for only KD6.000 including beverages. First two kids free, per family, the rest half price. SUHOUR: Eat as much as you can for KD2.000. LOBBY CAFE: All kinds of freshly squeezed juices plus mouth-watering pastries. BABYLON GARDENS: Order for 2 and pay for 1. From 7 to 9 pm nightly. Enjoy a variety of Arabic and Continental sweets, and associated fresh fruit juices.

Sheraton Hotel

HUNT ROOM: Opens for Ifar with a buffet of exquisite delicacies. RICARDO: Will be opened for dinner with live entertainment by the new duo - Franco + Regina. COFFEE SHOP: Will serve an Ifar buffet and regular dinner with special menu items such as grilled items, mazzia, etc. Enjoy Subour from 12 pm to 3 am. LOBBY: Lady pianist Margorata Wejiss plays in the lobby diwanaya after Ifar until the end of Ramadan.

SPORTS

Yoga lessons

FOR FITNESS and slimming, Kuwait International Hotel offers Yoga lessons for ladies and men, every Sunday and Tuesday at 8.00 to 9.00 pm and on Friday from 10.30 to 11.30 am. For more information contact Antonio Kingima on 2533000 or Tanya on 5626529.

Jazzercise

Jazzercise at the Messilah Beach Hotel will be from 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm on Saturdays and Wednesdays till the end of Ramadan.

India Festival Tournaments

Indian Arts Circle in its press release, announced that an all Indian Open badminton and volleyball, tournaments will be conducted in connection with the India Festival.

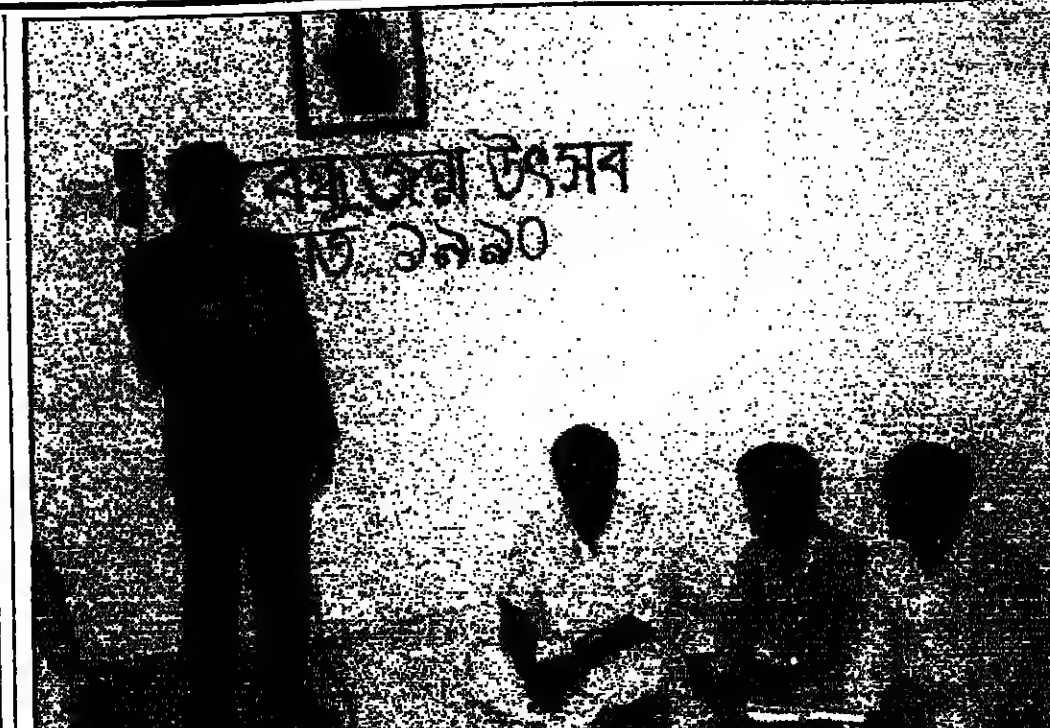
All Indian teams/individuals are invited to register themselves for early fixtures to avoid disappointment.

Both the tournaments will commence on 9.4.1990 at 7.30 pm. Last date for entry will be 5.4.1990 before 10.00 pm. Fix-

tures will be displayed at I.A.C. on 7.4.1990 at 8.00 pm. Participation is only against India Festival Master coupons for each event/individual. For further details please contact IAG office or India Festival Office Tel: 3904817 (5 pm-10 pm), 2456293 (5.30 pm-11 pm).

Dinghy Laser Sailing
M.B.L.C. announces its Ramadan "Madhatter" racing series commencing Friday 30.3.90 and running every Tuesday and Friday until 17.4.90. Briefing times: Fridays 10.00 am, Tuesday 15.00. All members are requested to attend the pre-race meeting on Friday, 30.3.90 at 09.30. New members welcome. Limited number of club boats available. For further details please contact: David Clark (W) 4845171 (H) 2451791, Roger Brown (W) 4736167, (H) 5325139.

Danielle Bowling
ALL Danes are invited to participate in the first ever Danielle Bowling Tournament on April 5, 1990 at 6 pm. For further information and registration please call Ceilia - Tel. 3715637 or Marianne - Tel. 3720137 before March 26.



Bangladeshis celebrate Sheikh Mujib's birthday

A group of Bangladeshis recently celebrated the 70th birthday of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the first president of Bangladesh. The function was presided over by Khondker Abdul Hannan and addressed by Asad Hossain, Jamal Haidar, Nurul Anwar, Khondker M. Khorsheed Alam, A.S.M. Shahkamal, Abdul Karim Khan, Ismail Bhuyan, Lokman Hossain, Abdul Mottaleb, Abdul Baset, Abul Quasem Mridha, Abdul Majid, Muneer Hossain and Abdul Halim. The discussion was followed by songs dedicated to Sheikh Mujib's leadership and sacrifice. The singers were Subir Ghose, Ehsanul Karim and Kamaluddin.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

East Europeans get blunt advice on doing business with West

BONN, April 1. (Reuters): Eastern Europe's budding businessmen are getting some blunt advice from the Western entrepreneurs they are so keen to do deals with.

At an East-West economic conference here, Western executives are brushing aside airy visions of joint ventures and co-operation agreements and challenging their Eastern counterparts to get to grips with more mundane matters.

Niels Peter Frielsbø, whose Danish company Dima makes foundry equipment, told a panel of Soviet businessmen he had tried for two years

in vain to place orders with Soviet firms.

"You don't apply the normal international trade standards, you don't have the right quality, you don't have the right delivery times," he told them.

"As long as you cannot trade on standard business conditions, I don't see how you can be competitive in the West."

Canadian businessman Edwin Mallory recently visited a large Soviet industrial company which exports to 34 countries.

"I was surprised to learn that this enterprise had no telex connection

with the outside world," said Mallory, a vice-president of property developers Olympia and York.

Jan Nystrom of the Swedish Trade Council said the Soviet Union still tended to think too much in terms of large organisations and grand projects, overlooking the potential of small businesses.

"Sometimes feel your organisations believe that foreign trade is much more complicated than it really is," he said.

Far from being offended, Moscow and its reformist allies appear to welcome the advice.

Soviet delegate Georgi Petrov, an official of the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, said joint ventures with Western companies would lead to the transfer of know-how, new methods of management and new technology.

"We are in very great need of such new methods of management, of economic thinking," he told a news conference.

"We should learn the art of how to make a feasibility study, to count money, to make a real balance of accounts on the micro level, on the level of individual enterprises."

Sergei Zotov of the Soviet delegation said the talks were helping to narrow the differences between Eastern and Western economies and to bring businessmen from both sides together.

"We believe this conference is a particularly appropriate forum to start dialogue on how to overcome the economic and technological division of the European continent," he said.

Some 220 Soviet businessmen are attending the three-week conference on economic co-operation in Europe, which groups 33 European countries — only Albania is missing — plus the

United States and Canada.

The businessmen, from throughout the Soviet Union, have been trying to drum up investment for their areas and convince their often sceptical Western partners that President Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms are starting to bite.

A delegation from the Urals put forward the possibility of joint ventures involving defence companies in their region. When questioned further, they said this would involve manufacturing civilian products such as train engines.

The talks, which end on April 11, are an offshoot of the Conference on

Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) launched by the 1975 Helsinki accords.

For the first time at a CSCE meeting, businessmen outnumbered diplomats among the 1,800 delegates by around two to one — hence the undiplomatic plain speaking.

A draft final document put forward by the European Economic Community urging all 35 states to embrace free enterprise has won a surprising degree of acceptance from the Eastern Europeans. The old-style centrally planned economy has had no defenders.

Iran plans gas export projects

NEW YORK, April 1. (UPI): Iran expects to award major contracts to foreign companies this year for several natural gas export projects, the country's oil minister was reported as saying yesterday.

In its March issue, world gas intelligence quoted Iran's Oil Minister, Gholamreza Aghazadeh, saying he expected the contracts to be signed by the end of 1990.

Iran, with the world's second-largest natural gas reserves after the Soviet Union, wants to build a gas pipeline across Turkey to Southern Europe and another across Pakistan to India, the publication said.

Iran's exports are currently limited to one relatively small pipeline through the Soviet Union, it said.

In September, Aghazadeh was reported by the Opec news agency as saying natural gas exports to the Soviet Union, halted 10 years ago when the regime of Ayatollah Khomeini came to power, would resume in March.

Tehran also was reported around the same time as saying Iran planned to spend \$3.4 billion over the next five years to develop natural gas resources on the Gulf Coast.

In an interview in the publication, Algerian Oil Minister Sadek Boussena projected rising demand for natural gas in Western Europe and said Algeria would raise the capacity of its pipeline under the Mediterranean to Italy and build another through Morocco to Spain.

For the moment, Boussena said, discussions regarding supplying Eastern Europe with natural gas "have stagnated."

"More interesting at the moment," Boussena said, "are the West European countries. They need more gas. And here, discussions are well-advanced."

He said Algeria's new pipeline could provide natural gas to Germany, which in turn could sell the gas to its eastern neighbours.

KD deposit rates firm

KUWAIT, April 1. (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposits were mainly steady in this Sunday trade, with business concentrating on the short dates.

Overnight, tomorrow-next and spot-next all dealt at 8-5/8 per cent. Quotes for all three edged up 1/16 point to 8-11/16, 7/16 per cent but dealers said they were well-offered.

Fixed maturities were quiet, with the one-month indicated steady at 8-13/16, 9/16, three-months at 8-7/8, 5/8, and six-months at 8-15/16, 1/16.

The Central Bank left its dinar exchange rate unchanged as normal on Sunday's at 0.293787/97 to the dollar.

Polish inflation dips sharply

WARSAW, April 1. (Reuters): Poland's harsh economic austerity measures are bringing spiralling prices under control but Warsaw needs more relief from its crippling foreign debt, the government said yesterday.

Deputy Finance Minister Wojciech Misag said prices rose between five and six per cent in March, after monthly leaps of 78.6 per cent in January and 23.9 per cent in February.

"I can say that March has been successful... we are really close to the stabilisation of prices," Misag told a news conference.

He quoted Peter Hole, head of an International Monetary Fund (IMF) team which visited Poland this week, as saying the reform programme was "on track and going smoothly."

Poles have suffered steep falls in real wages since the Solidarity-led government introduced its reform package on Jan 1. Inflation surged over the next two months, hitting a record annual 1,266 per cent in February, as subsidies were slashed and energy prices quadrupled.

Chalabi to discuss oil policy

Iraqi minister to visit Japan

TOKYO, April 1. (Opecna): Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Raheem Al Chalabi is due to arrive here on Tuesday for a visit lasting several days, sources at the Foreign Ministry announced Friday.

They pointed out that the minister will hold talks with Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Taro Nakayama and International Trade and Industry Minister Kabuo Muto.

Al Chalabi is expected to address a function organised by businessmen in Tokyo, as well as meet with executives of Japanese firms.

According to industry statistics, Japan imported five per cent of its total oil needs, valued at around \$800 million, from the Opec member country in 1988.

Meanwhile late buying helped push up crude oil and products prices Friday on the New York Mercantile Exchange, with technical factors largely controlling the trading activity in the absence of any major developments.

The benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for May delivery rose 25 cents to \$20.28 a barrel on the Merc. The closing, however, was 11 cents lower than

a week ago closing of \$20.39 a barrel.

Unleaded gasoline for May delivery, the contract receiving the most attention on the Merc recently, also moved up 0.25 cent to 65.36 cents a gallon. It closed at 57.66 cents a gallon at the end of the previous week.

Home-heating oil rose 0.56 cent to \$4.34 cents a gallon. A week ago, heating oil closed at 55.46 cents a gallon.

"We got good buying before the weekend. There was more interest in taking delivery than making delivery," said Peter Beutel at Elders Futures Inc. in

New York. "Other than that it was a quiet day and only the technical indications helped the market to drift up."

On the US Gulf Coast spot market, where crude is bought and sold for cash, WTI was quoted at \$20.35 a barrel, up 35 cents.

On the European spot market, Britain's widely traded North Sea Brent crude was up 10 cents to \$18.25 a barrel.

The United Arab Emirates' Dubai light — they key Opec crude from the Middle East shipped mainly to the Far East — added 25 cents to \$15.60 a barrel.

Soviet oil production slumps

Industrial activity declines

MOSCOW, April 1. (Opecna): Soviet oil production in the first two months of this year fell by four per cent from the same period in 1989 as political and social unrest heightened, it has been reported here.

Leonid Abalkin, head of the Soviet Union's State Commission for Economic Reform, said that the decline in oil production was just part of a general slump in industrial activity that began in December last year.

Quoted by Reuters news agency, he said in addition to reduced crude output, coal production had fallen by six per cent in January and February.

The Soviet Union still remains the world's largest oil producer but its normal output of around 12 million bpd is on a steady downward trend.

Apart from the strikes and political upheaval, the oil industry has been dogged by its own operational problems. Some oilfields have reached maturity while many installations and facilities are already out of date.

Abalkin said that a series of strikes in the Soviet union had kept an average of 200,000 workers away from their jobs every day.

"This state of affairs demands that the government make substantial adjustments to the economic recovery programme," he asserted.

However, earlier this week it was announced that the Soviet Union would not be making a cut in oil exports to Hungary this year, as originally planned. Hungary's Deputy Industry Minister Gyula Czipper confirmed that following economic talks between the two sides, the Soviet Union had agreed to supply Hungary with its full quota of 6.5 million tonnes of oil this year.

In addition, the Soviet side had agreed to make up a 300,000 tonne shortfall in first-quarter oil deliveries to Hungary "as soon as possible," he said.

As a stop-gap measure, Hungary had been forced to import over 200,000 tonnes of oil from Iraq, the first time it had purchased crude from an Opec member country for domestic consumption in over a decade, added Czipper.

A delegation led by Deputy Energy Minister Aklim Mouskhametzanov gave a presentation to 10 oil officials in Houston on the Soviet Union's five oil producing regions for the purpose of attracting development and financial help.

Mouskhametzanov was quoted as saying that the meeting represented a new stage in co-operation between the Soviet oil industry and international oil companies and reflected the "dramatic political and economic changes" that were sweeping his country.

Burma, Korean firm sign deals

RANGOON, April 1. (UPI): The Burmese government has concluded business deals with the Daewoo group of South Korea for joint production of electronic goods and garments for export, and for building a wholly Korean-owned five-star hotel in Rangoon, officials said Friday.

The deals were struck during the two-day visit to Rangoon of Daewoo chairman Kim Woo-Choon earlier this week, said Col. Than Shwe, managing director of the government-owned Myanmar Heavy Industries company. The nation of Burma recently changed its name to Myanmar.

The business deals are a sign that the military government of Burma, which seized direct power in September, 1988, has opened the country's doors to foreign investment for the first time since 1963.

It also plans to encourage tourism, but both in investment and tourism have been hampered by continued political arrests and foreign charges of government violations of human rights.

Under an agreement signed Thursday, Myanmar Heavy Industries and Daewoo will set up a joint-venture named Daewoo Electronic Myanmar Company Ltd. for the manufacture of televisions, radio cassette players and refrigerators, than Shwe said.

The initial capital of the new joint-venture is \$4 million, with 45 per cent contributed by the Burmese side and 55 per cent by the Korean partners.

In the first phase, the company will operate in three factory buildings granted from Myanmar Heavy Industries.

Annual production in the first three or four years will be 3,000 colour and 67,000 black and white television sets, 63,000 radio cassettes, and 4,000 refrigerators.

In the second phase, the joint-venture will set up a factory of its own on a 45-acre (12 ha) site at Pyinmabin, a village of few miles (kms) out of Rangoon town centre.

Annual production targets in this phase are 32,000 colour and 168,000 black and white TV sets, 156,000 radio cassettes, and 55,000 refrigerators.

The company expects to export as much as 80 per cent of this production, leaving only about 20 per cent for the home market, than Shwe said.

He said he is optimistic this export target will be achieved because Daewoo has a well-established, worldwide distribution network for its products.

"We have planned to produce more black and white TV sets because these are much more in demand than colour sets in many of Daewoo's customer countries," he explained.

Mexico considering free trade deal with US

MEXICO CITY, April 1. (Reuters): Mexico is considering a free trade deal with the United States — its dominating northern neighbour that swallowed half its territory last century — in what could amount to a reversal of an economic nationalism dating from the revolution of 1910.

At its most ambitious, such an agreement — similar to that reached by the United States and Canada in 1988 — could create a North American common market to compete with economic blocs emerging in a unified Europe and the Pacific rim.

The idea of closer economic ties with the United States, with which Mexico conducts 65 per cent of its foreign trade, carries heavy political and economic risks for a country proud of its nationalist tradition.

Historically, Mexico used a strict regime of tariff barriers and closely regulated foreign investment to resist the intervention of outsiders.

No actual negotiations on a free trade agreement are under way, but Jaime Serra Puche, Mexico's Minister of Trade and Industrial Development, said on Wednesday

that his country and Washington were jointly analysing their trade relationship.

On Tuesday, the White House said Mexico and the United States were talking about negotiating a free trade agreement similar to the US-Canadian trade pact, but US officials cautioned that it could take time.

Mexicans are wary of their powerhouse northern neighbours, who seized and incorporated such territories as Texas, California and Arizona more than a century ago, and some fear the contrast in economic development is too extreme.

But the move toward commercial integration with the United States may be a wise one for a debt-ridden economy almost incapable of securing new loans from international banks.

"The disparity between the levels of development of the two countries puts us at a disadvantage. We run the risk of becoming simply suppliers of raw materials for the US and Canadian markets," trade analyst Juan Jose Mercado told Reuters.

Mercado, assistant director of the

1,000-member Association of Mexican Importers and Exporters (Aniemer), said a US-Mexico trade agreement could also constitute a setback for Latin American nations who believe economic health lies in regional co-operation.

Such a deal would be the latest bold move by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who has pledged to rid Mexico of the vestiges of decades of protectionist trade policy discarded when the country launched a trade liberalisation programme in the mid-1980s.

By pursuing a trade agreement Salinas opens himself to an assault by the political opposition, which has attacked him for privatising state-controlled companies. His ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) is frequently accused by political opponents of using electoral fraud to hold on to power.

"There is a predominant idea that a free trade agreement would imply many risks and disadvantages for Mexico," an editorial in the leftist daily La Jornada said on Thursday, adding that free trade might also bring benefits.

Nigeria may get World Bank loans

LAGOS, April 1. (Opecna): Nigeria is likely to receive \$1 billion in loans from the World Bank this year, according to officials from the Washington-based institution.

They disclosed that talks were proceeding on a repeat of the 1989 allocation of \$500 million "in two equal slices" designed to make the country's tough structural adjustment programme less unpopular by boosting the availability of hard currency.

According to the Reuters news agency, a further \$500 million would be extended for projects in universities, urban development, transport and telecommunications.

One of the main schemes involved is a \$490 million plan to modernise the country's troubled telephone system, to which the World Bank may contribute up to \$200 million over three to four years.

The report said that another loan for \$270 million to help finance small and medium-scale industries was "just starting," adding that it would be managed by the Nigerian Central Bank and distributed through commercial banks.

The officials revealed that the country's universities would soon start receiving aid from a fund operated by its affiliate, the International Development Agency (IDA).

Nigeria owes institutions such as the World Bank over \$4 billion of its total hard currency debt of 32 billion.

Reforms introduced by the government in 1986 have won support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and debt-rescheduling agreements with both the London Club of commercial banks and government creditors in the Paris Club.

Pledges worth about \$600 million in soft loans from a group of government and institutional lenders are expected to help finance this year's budget, which allocates just under a third of forecast earnings to interest payments on debts.

Inflation soars to record 84pc

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 1. (AP): Brazil's cost of living soared 84 per cent in March, the highest monthly increase in the nation's history, the government said Friday.

March's inflation shot up from February's rate of 73 per cent, according to the Brazilian Geography and Statistics Institute. The government recognises the institute's figures as official.

Inflation is running at 397 per cent since January and has reached 4,533 per cent during the previous 12 months, the institute reported.

The March rate, calculated from mid-February to mid-March, reflected the wild surge in prices preceding the inauguration of President Fernando Collor de Mello, who was sworn in on March 15 for a five-year term.

Prices shot up almost 200 per cent a week before Collor took office in anticipation of a price freeze.

Transportation and communication pushed up the cost of living more than any other item, jumping 94.83 per cent and food rose 84.15 per cent, the institute reported.

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs)	Indrol	212.50	215	222.50
March 30, '90	JK Syn	57	55.50	56.50
Pr. Close	Kin Engg	143.75	146.25	145
Open	Kir Cumm	81	82	82
Close	S&S Pumps	207.50	212.50	217.50
	L & T	81	83.50	82
	Lipton	19	92	95
	Mac Russel	115	113.75	112.50
	Mad Coats	112.50	110	112.50
	Mahindra	77.50	79	77.50
	Mas Share	18.25	18.75	18.65
	Mico	840	860	890
	Multifood	212.50	205	215
	Modi	47	46	47
	MRF Ltd	210	210	210
	Muk Iron	137.50	138	140
	Noel	1240	1270	1270
	Nat Org	45.50	45	45
	Nippon	16.50	16.75	17.25
	Orkay	46	46	45
	Oswal Agro	82.50	81.25	82
	Pfizer	222.50	231.25	238
	Ponds	58.50	58.50	60
	Prem Auto	97.50	95	98.75
	Ramshay	81	81	82
	Reckitt	215	210	215
	Reliance	65.50	68	65.50
	Sea Goo	89	94	93.50
	Shaw Wall	—	—	—
	Shree Cem	57	53	55
	Shri Fib	112	113	115.50
	SKF	1370	1390	1390
	Spic	57.75	58	59
	St Mills	74.50	75	79
	Tata Oil	123.50	125	123.50
	Tata Chem	445	460	467.50
	Tata Tow	123.50	126	127
	Telco	—	—	—
	Thapp Agro	124	125	125
	Yasco	143.75	143.75	147.50
	Varo Org	70	70	70
	Vareli	18.75	19	19.25
	Volras	55	54	56
	Wimco	—	—	—
	Zenith	—	—	—
	Zuari Agro	62	61	62

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BUSINESS

Soviet Union announces clampdown on exports

MOSCOW, April 1. (AP) The list seems endless. From car batteries to caviar, mushrooms to electric wire, bicycles to cooking oil, cameras to refrigerators, the Soviet Union is trying to block the export of practically all consumer goods from the deficit-ridden country.

Tyres and spare parts for vehicles, furs and coffee, all meat and its by-products, fish, eggs, canned fish and nuts, honey and sugar, cereals, confectionaries, linen and other fabrics would have to stay at home.

Household electric appliances, vacuum cleaners, washing and sewing machines, construction materials, spices and radio equipment are barred from export as well.

These are extraordinary, emergency measures needed to stabilise the consumer market, Valery Dragunov, deputy head of the government's Customs Authority, said of the new restrictions.

The clampdown on exports, announced by Dragunov in Leningrad Friday evening, was made necessary by chronic shortages of consumer goods and is likely to appeal to Soviets who spend hours standing in lines at shops where most of the shelves are empty.

But for those who plan to go abroad for business or pleasure, the announcement was a bombshell.

The government severely restricts the amount of convertible currency Soviet citizens are permitted to take out of the country. Most are permitted to carry from \$30 to 200, depending on the length of their stay abroad and the type of trip they are making.

Many Soviets customarily pack food or consumer goods, either to sell for currency they can spend abroad or merely to preserve what limited funds they have.

Dragunov said the new restrictions, which apply to foreigners as well as Soviets, will remain in effect at least through 1990.

"The consumer market is becoming more and more naked," Dragunov complained. "The situation is becoming even more complex since we witness an increased activity of mafia groups, which pilfer deficit industrial and food supplies straight out of the 'back door' and then send them abroad."

"We had to stop this mass export of commodities immediately," he added.

At Chop, a border crossing station in the western Ukraine, some 350 Soviet tourists have recently imposed a self-imposed blockade on the Tisa customs office, "demanding restrictions on export of excessive food supplies and mass consumption goods," Dragunov said.

He said orders were restored in Chop only after police intervention, and customs officials confiscated 200 sets of bedclothes, 20 bicycles, six gasoline-powered saws and other goods from travellers.

"They are trying to bring out through Tisa virtually everything one can think of: match boxes and mixers, canned products and electric drills, sausages, cheese and buckets, mousetraps and electric irons, butter and toys, socks and linen, gloves and metalwork, equipment, rice and sugar, chocolate and toothpaste, black pepper and tableware," Dragunov said.

"Notice that these goods disappear very quickly from the shelves of our shops," he added.

Financier buys key stake in Spanish TV venture

MADRID, April 1. (Reuters) A Spanish financier has bought a key stake in Telecinco, one of Spain's first private television channels, ending a bitter row over programme policy.

Javier De La Rosa purchased publishers Grupo Anaya's 25 per cent stake, Telecinco said in a statement late on Friday.

The acquisition ended a row between Anaya and another major shareholder, Italian media magnate Silvio Berlusconi, who also has a 25 per cent stake.

Berlusconi had allied with a charity for the blind, once, which also holds 25 per cent, to oust Anaya representatives from Telecinco's board.

De La Rosa, who is also the Kuwait Investment Office's agent in Spain, has pledged to support that channel's present management and approved its outlook, Telecinco's statement said.

It said Anaya associate Juan Fernandez Montreal had sold a five per cent stake to Berlusconi ally, businessman Angel Medrano, raising his stake to 15 per cent.

The sale of Fernandez Montreal's remaining 10 per cent to businessman Jose Maria Blanch should be completed within days.

The reshuffling of the station's ownership, for which the government had set a ceiling of 25 per cent per owner, ends a bitter dispute that erupted three months ago over who should control the channel, and over programming and advertising policy.

Anaya said it favoured solid news coverage. But Berlusconi, whose Milan holding Fininvest also owns French, is known as the king of low-brow "juke-box television" — a mixture of game shows, popular movies and US soap operas.

GIB study sees slowdown in overseas development

Investment strategies for Gulf investors

This is the second part of this article. The first part appeared on April 1.

Government securities in the USA, the UK and other OECD countries have provided attractive channels for Gulf investors. By mid 1989, an estimated \$52 billion or 14.8 per cent of total assets was invested in this category, more than one third of which was in US government securities. Development of funds in foreign reserves — gold, SDR, foreign exchange with the IMF — have been more or less stable during the period 1983-1989, reaching \$27 billion for the six Gulf states in mid 1989.

Following the liquid assets come equity holdings (corporate bonds and stocks), property, and other investments in the industrialised countries. This broad category constituted around 19.7 per cent of total GCC overseas investments or \$68.8 billion in mid 1989. Investment in stocks is not expected to have exceeded 12 per cent of the total at around \$42 billion.

While the "other investment" category has been declining for holdings in the US, it has been on the rise for the UK and the other EEC countries mainly Germany, Switzerland, France, Spain and Italy and the other OECD countries namely Japan, Canada and Australia. For the latter group this category of investment had almost doubled over the period, 1983-1989. Gulf direct investments abroad have tended to focus on well established profitable businesses with known brand names that command a sizeable portion of their home markets.

In the real estate sector, the Arab investor opted mostly for prime property at the conservative rather than the speculative end of the market.

Other forms of long term investment are credit to non-banks and direct loans to developing countries. While credit to non-banks has been on the rise both in absolute and in percentage terms, placements with LDCs dropped from 14.2 per cent of the total in 1983 to 12.8 by mid 1989. In contrast

to investments in the industrialised countries, opportunities in developing countries, opportunities in developing countries, a suffer from broader economic problems, lack of codified and enforceable investment and currency laws, under-developed infrastructure, lack of foreign exchange, high returns on investment in industry and other sectors, an absence of stock markets, developed money and bond markets and regulatory agencies, changing and frequent unpredictable tax structures and a generally lack of political and economic stability.

There are three broad groups of Gulf private investors institutions, the high net-worth individuals and the less wealthy investors. The institutional investors include commercial banks, investment, finance and insurance companies utilities and manufacturing companies enjoying substantial liquidity prior to implementing their investment programmes as well as trading and other service companies whose commercial activities generate surplus cash flow that could not be re-invested fully within the business.

These institutions together with the high net-worth individuals have been active participants in the international markets and have been targeted by the large financial institutions world-wide providing them with such services as private banking, portfolio management, direct investment in businesses abroad, real estate and other specific ventures.

Clearly each group has different investment goals and risk return profiles. However, they also share many common features. For example, the average Gulf investor tends to be conservative rather than speculative. He is basically a risk averse investor with the preservation and enhancement of the value of his capital featuring as the most important factor in his investment decision. He has a clear preference for liquidity reflecting a general attitude towards realising quick profits.

The Gulf investors feel more comfortable with his money invested in a familiar

environment (e.g. more in his domestic market, USA and Europe than in Japan and other Far Eastern markets) and in products that he understands (e.g. direct investment in real estate and stocks rather than leverage buyouts and acquisition of corporate businesses, precious metals more than commodities and bonds rather than options and futures).

The results of a sample survey carried out recently by GIB to explore investment priorities, trends and patterns of high net-worth individuals in the various Gulf countries, confirm the general portrait of the Gulf investor presented above. Equity ranked highest among GCC investors with a clear bias, especially on the part of the Saudi investors, towards their local stock market.

The majority of those responded leave their international portfolio to outside managers, even though a good number of them trade directly in their domestic markets. Internationally, investments in the US stock market came first followed respectively by the stock markets of Germany, Japan and the UK. Bank deposits rank second on the list of preferred investment channels, with dollar deposits being dominant, followed by deposits in the respective Gulf currencies and sterling deposits a distant third.

This undoubtedly reflects Gulf investors' clear preference for liquidity. As we have seen in the previous section, the portfolio of Gulf investment abroad has recorded a decline in dollar deposit over the past few years while domestic currency bank deposits in the other OECD countries, mainly mark and yen deposits, has adjusted upwards.

Real estate ranks third among preferred Gulf investment outlets and is a definite first if we only consider investments in the domestic markets. Internationally, real estate in the US rank highest with the UK market a strong second followed by other European markets mainly France and Spain.

Precious metals come next followed by such newly developed financial instruments

such as options and futures, warrants and margin trading, with investments in commodities trailing behind. The interest of Gulf investors in gold and other precious metals have dropped considerably in the last few years reflecting both the increased sophistication among investors and a move away from speculative investment outlets. Only the most professional investor utilises options and futures to hedge his equity, bond or currency position.

The little investment that Gulf investors have in commodities has to do with oil and oil products. In general however, investors seem to shun the speculative nature of commodities, especially that they are not likely to get the same information support as with other more conventional instruments.

In the first two months of this year, dollar interest rates, have become lower than corresponding DM rates for the first time since 1976, and the gap is expected to widen in the near term. We expect the DM to remain firm during 1990, the yen to stay generally subdued and the sterling to loose additional grounds before firming a little bit later in the year.

Changes in fiscal policy during 1990 will favour the D. Mark, including lower taxes and supply-side reforms in Germany, the rising costs to support East Germany and the flood of East German emigrants to West Germany compared to slightly tighter fiscal policy (lower defence budget expenditures and smaller budget deficit) in the US.

Germany is now pursuing the same policy mix (tighter monetary/more expansionary fiscal policy) that drove the dollar sharply higher in the early 1980s. Furthermore, the flow of capital into D. Marks will continue as investment opportunities associated with Eastern Europe increase and better prospects for the German stock market compared to other major world markets.

The dollar downward adjustment against the European currencies is expected to be limited this year in contrast to what had happened in 1985 and 1986. The slower

economic growth in the US compared to that of Europe and Japan suggests further trade improvements, in the months ahead. The wild card in the financial markets this year is the likelihood of adverse developments in Eastern Europe and the USSR. Such developments could trigger a significant rush towards dollars, the traditionally safe haven currency, at the expense of the DM and other continental European currencies. Our forecasts show the dollar trading in ranges of 1.60-1.70 and 1.55-1.65 against the DM in the first and second quarter respectively, close to the dollar's all-time low of 1.57 reached in early January 1988, and to drift further down to 1.50-1.60 range on the later part of the year.

THE Bank of Japan has boosted the official discount rate to 4.25 per cent in late December last year and yields on Japanese bonds have been adjusting upwards in the last few months. The peak in interest rates has not yet been reached in Japan. Containing inflation remains the Bank of Japan's top priority. With a robust domestic economy and rising inflationary pressures, another increase in discount rate is forecasted for the first half of this year with three months Euro-yen reaching 7.5 per cent.

This reduction in the yen's adverse interest rate differential may provide the currency with some support and discourage capital outflow. We expect the yen to drift downward in the coming few months before firming up later in the year, according to GIB study.

In the UK, political uncertainty surrounding the conservative government and higher inflationary pressures will bring forth lower sterling exchange rates in the coming few months. No change in UK base rates is forecasted for 1990 from current levels of 15 per cent.

The sterling is expected to firm slightly in the second half of the year especially against the US dollar however, gains against the

DM if any will be limited by the expected rise in German interest rates.

In the US the Federal Reserve is moving monetary policy in late December, lowering the Fed funds to 8.25 per cent. This would be the first easing since the spring of 1989 to 6 per cent. Inflation remains a stubborn problem in the US, suggesting a tight monetary approach to monetary policy from now on. We expect dollar interest rates to continue generally stable over the coming two quarters.

It is unlikely that the Fed will take any recession risks because of the congressional and state elections due in November in the fourth quarter of this year. Short term interest rates may edge slightly upwards as the US economy starts to look somewhat stronger with the next move of the Fed funds up to 8.50 per cent materialising late in the year.

The US stock market was up 34.4 per cent in 1989 with the Dow Jones average reaching a new record high of 2,810 on January 7, 1990 before adjusting downwards in the following weeks. The stock markets of Germany and France performed much better last year with rises of 44.3 per cent and 38.4 per cent respectively in dollar terms, while the UK market was up 34.6 per cent in sterling (25 per cent in dollar terms). The best performer in 1989 was the Singapore stock market up 47.8 per cent in dollar terms, with the Hong Kong market following the weakest performance with a 5.6 per cent rise during 1989.

Of the world's big business, West Germany has the best prospects this year. Even though investor worries may bring the German stock market back from time to time, we expect the trend to be upwards, on the strength of better profit opportunities associated with progress toward German economic reunification and high demand for German exports in Eastern Europe.

(To be continued)

Market gives signs of weak performance

Kuwait trade volume dips

THE Alshail Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 40.02 points with a decrease of 0.33 point — 0.82 per cent — from last week's average. The Alshail Index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 65.05 with an increase of 0.57 point — 0.88 per cent — for the same period, according to Alshail weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 28.58 million shares at a daily average of 5.72 million shares with a decrease of 37 per cent from the previous week's daily average of 9.08 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 9.205 million shares at a daily average of 1.841 million shares with an increase of 93 per cent over last week's daily average of 0.956 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD7.18 million at a daily average of KD1.44 million, a decrease of 66 per cent from last week's daily average of KD4.23 million. The value of non-Kuwaiti

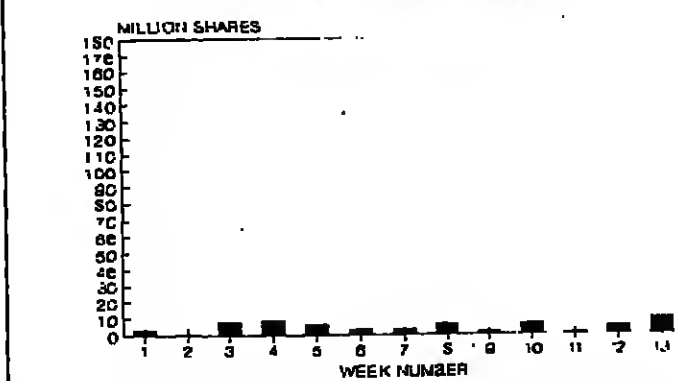
traded shares was KD0.339 million at a daily average of KD0.068 million, an increase of 45 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.047 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the investment sector came first at 45 per cent of total trading against 13 per cent last week. Coast Investment and Development Company had the lead at 64 per cent, followed by Kuwait Investment Projects Company at 34 per cent and International Financial Advisers at 1 per cent.

The banking sector came second at 31 per cent in which the National Bank of Kuwait had the lead at 35 per cent followed by the Gulf Bank at 29 per cent and Kuwait Finance House at 14 per cent. The services sector came third at 13 per cent in which the Public Warehouse Company had the lead at 92 per cent followed by Mobile Telephone Systems Company at 6 per cent, and Kuwait Computer Company at 1 per cent.

Kuwaiti shareholding companies index			
	Wed. 28/03/90	Wed. 21/03/90	Change points
Banking Sector			
The National Bk	129.20	130.52	-1.32
The Gulf Bk	31.31	31.48	-0.17
The Comm. Bk	24.59	24.59	
Al Ahli Bk	31.29	31.79	-0.50
Bk of Kt & ME	30.63	31.44	-0.81
Kuwait R. Est. Bk	29.35	30.27	-0.92
Burgan Bk	27.06	27.06	
Kt Finance House	81.72	83.52	-1.80
Service Sector			
Inv. Sector			
Kuwait Inv. Co.	8.72	8.72	
Kt. Int. Inv. Co.	8.59	8.59	
IFA	24.19	23.16	1.03
Comm. Facilities	162.25	162.25	
National Inv.	57.84	57.84	
Kt. Inv. Proj.	89.89	88.76	1.12
Coast Inv. & Dev.	84.71	87.06	-2.35
Service Index	32.32	32.31	0.01
Ind. Sector			
Kt. Ins. Co.	35.88	35.88	
Gulf Ins. Co.	23.08	23.08	
Al Ahlia Ins.	50.18	50.84	-0.66
Warba Ins. Co.	50.69	50.69	
Service Index	35.63	35.74	-0.11
Real Est. Sec.			
Kt. Real Est.	12.11	12.11	
Utd. Realty	5.47	5.35	0.12
Nat. Real Est.	39.42	39.42	
Pearl of Kt.	63.49	63.49	
Service Index	15.39	15.33	0.07

NON-KUWAITI SHAREHOLDING COMPANIES WEEKLY TRADING VOLUME FROM JAN. 3, 1990 - MAR. 28, 1990



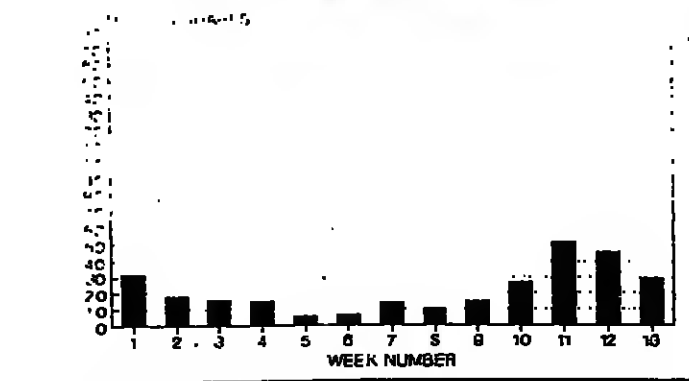
Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index			
	Wed. 28/03/90	Wed. 21/03/90	Change points
Ind. Sector			
Kt. Cml. Co	10.22	10.22	
Ref. Ind.	4.13	4.13	
Gulf Cables	13.13	13.29	-0.16
Kt. Pharm.	60.44	60.44	
Service Sector			
Kt. Cmpt. Co.	1.1	1.1	
Kt. Cinema Co.	1.1	1.1	
Pub. Whouse Co.	60.61	60.61	
Kt. Comm. M Co.	14.45	14.45	
M. Tele. Syst	60.00	60.00	
Service Index	59.41	59.68	-0.27
Food Sector			
L. Trad. & Trans.	20.29	20.29	
Utd Fisheries	11.05	11.05	
Kt. Utd Poultry	110.01	110.01	
Kt. Food Co	75.86	75.86	
Service Index	39.88	39.88	
Overall Index	40.02	40.35	-0.33

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index

	Wed. 28/03/90	Wed. 21/03/90	Change points
First G. Bk.	236.84	236.84	
Bah. Intl. Bk.	82.76	81.38	1.38
Bah. M.E. Bk.	94.92	94.92	
A. Gen. Inv. (Shuaib)	43.94	43.94	
Umm Al Q. Crj.	18.00	17.24	0.75
G. Med. Com.	13.13	13.13	
Total Index	65.05	64.48	0.57

— Base period 31/12/1983. — All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

KUWAITI SHAREHOLDING COMPANIES WEEKLY TRADING VOLUME FROM JAN. 3, 1990 - MAR. 28, 1990



Bonn bank recommends 2-to-1 rate for E. German currency

GALWAY, Ireland, April 1. (AP) West Germany's influential Central Bank has recommended a 2-to-1 conversion rate for the East German currency as part of plans to form an economic union of the two Germanys, an official has confirmed.

Karl Otto Poehl, head of the Bundesbank, said Saturday the Central Bank has proposed that East Germans only get one West German mark for every two units of their own currency.

He said the Bundesbank suggested the more favourable rate of 1-to-1 for savings accounts up to 2,000 East German marks per person.

The concession was made to smaller savers because of promises by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl during the recent election campaign in East Germany, he said.

"I think we have to honour this," Poehl told reporters at a meeting of European Economic Community finance officials at Ashford Castle in the village of Cong in Western Ireland.

Poehl outlined the Bundesbank recommendations in a recent letter to Kohl. The

government has not announced a conversion rate.

The money rate has been a key part of discussions about creating a monetary union between the two central European states. Once the economies are merged, the strong West German mark will become the only currency in circulation.

A 2-to-1 conversion rate would mean that the salaries of East German workers would be sliced in half. Wages of, say, 300 East German marks would shrink to 150 in the Western units.

But Poehl said the rate would be "favourable for the competitiveness of (East Germany), otherwise unemployment will go up very strongly."

"It is better to start at a rather low level and then try to increase wages according to the increase in productivity, which I think will be very strong," he said.

"It would be a misconception to start the other way around ... with a relatively high level of wages, which have to be paid in (West

Germany) marks in the future," he said.

He said the exchange rate "doesn't mean that you have to cut wages in half ... and that will stay forever."

Poehl gave no timetable for monetary union but said he would like negotiations to start soon.

"Time is working against us ... because the economic situation in (East Germany) is deteriorating every day," he said.

Other officials have predicted an economic merger in the summer. East Germany has seen its centrally planned economy weaken dramatically since late last year. Thousands of East Germans have poured into their western neighbour.

West Germany's economy, based on a free-market system, is the most powerful in the 12-nation European community. Many of the West European currencies are closely tied to its mark.

There had been speculation that a too favourable conversion rate would fuel inflation in price-conscious West Germany.

Per capita income rises

Kerala economy looks up

TRIVANDRUM, April 1. After years of repeated setbacks, Kerala's economy appears to be heading for a revival with major sectors of production registering encouraging growth during 1988-89, figures in this year's economic review of the state planning board show, reports Economic Times.

While relatively favourable weather conditions and innovative programmes with institutional back-up improved performance on the agricultural front, uninterrupted power supply and an unfolding investment climate augured reasonably well for industry.

Signs of revival were visible in other areas of economic activity like live-stock rearing and marine fishing but the traditional industries continued to be problem-ridden and distressing trends were evident in the production of spices.

According to the review, the state's income grew by 3.9 per cent (at 1980-81 prices) during 1988-89 as against the growth rate of 1.1 per cent recorded in the previous year.

Per capita income rose from Rs1,416 in 1987-88 to Rs1,447 in 1988-89, registering 2.2 per cent growth (1980-81 prices).

The crop sector's performance during the period showed that it was on the path of revival from the ill-effects of recurrent droughts, the review states.

Coconut production, worst affected by the droughts of the previous years, staged a spectacular recovery during the period, recording an impressive growth rate of 14.97 per cent comparable to the

production levels achieved in the early '70s, says the review.

Overall productivity of rice, however, touched an all-time peak during the three crop seasons and production cost could be reduced considerably due to group farming system's overwhelming success, according to the review.

The area under paddy cultivation fell from 6.04 lakh hectares in 1987-88 to 5.78 lakh hectares during the period.

Industry's performance was far better in 1988-89 with the manufacturing sector registering an increase of 8.2 per cent.

The number of industrial disputes and the volume of man-days lost fell considerably during the period, thanks to an improvement on labour relations.

Though some state-owned companies earned nominal profits during the period, the loss accumulated by most of them far outweighed the profit.

Fresh blood could be infused into the sick small-scale units resulting in the normal functioning of 86.6 per cent of the total units, the review claims.

An important area to show remarkable recovery during the period was marine fishing, where total production went up to 3.39 lakh tonnes from the previous year's 3.054 lakh tonnes.

The contribution of inland fishing added to this, total fish production goes up to 3.87 lakh tonnes, the review states.

Satellite trade pact

Japan agrees to US terms

WASHINGTON, April 1. (Reuters) Japan has agreed to virtually all the terms sought by the United States towards opening its government market to American and other foreign-built satellites, the US trade representative's office said yesterday.

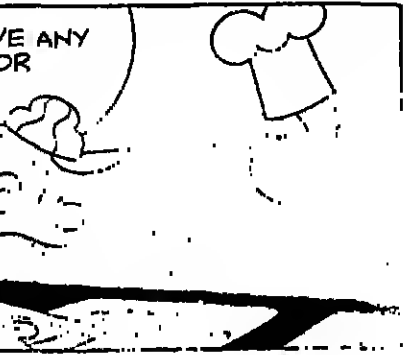
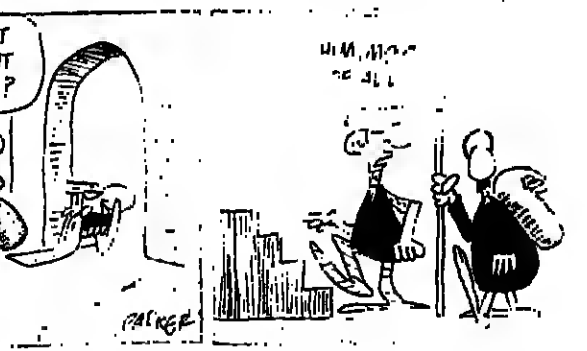
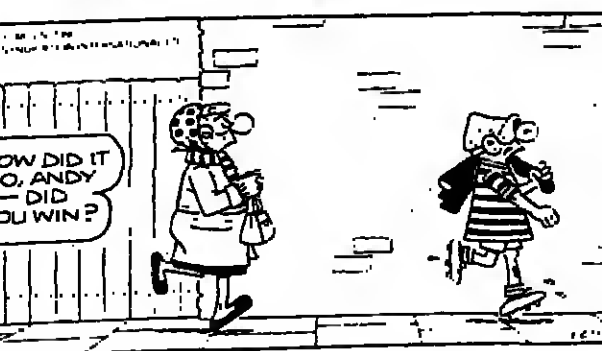
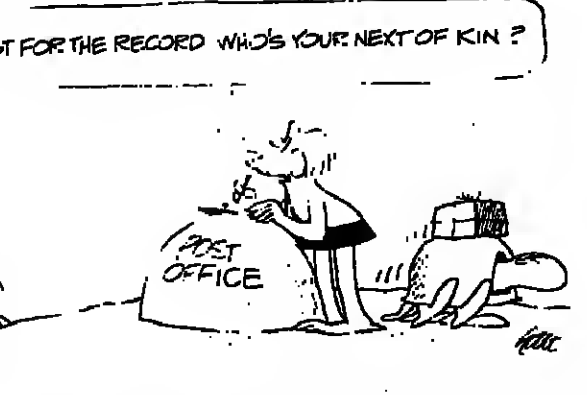
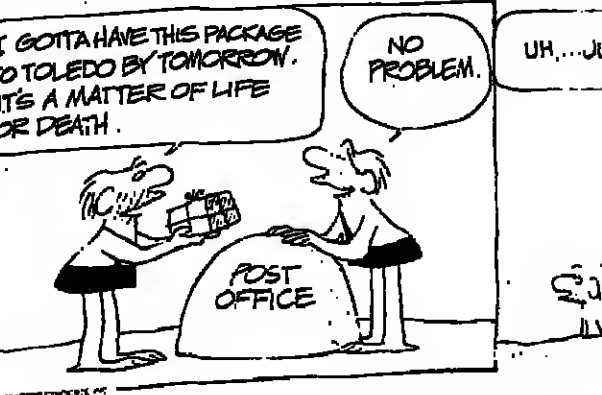
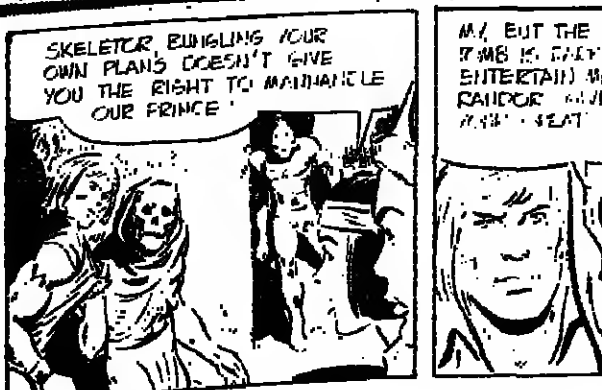
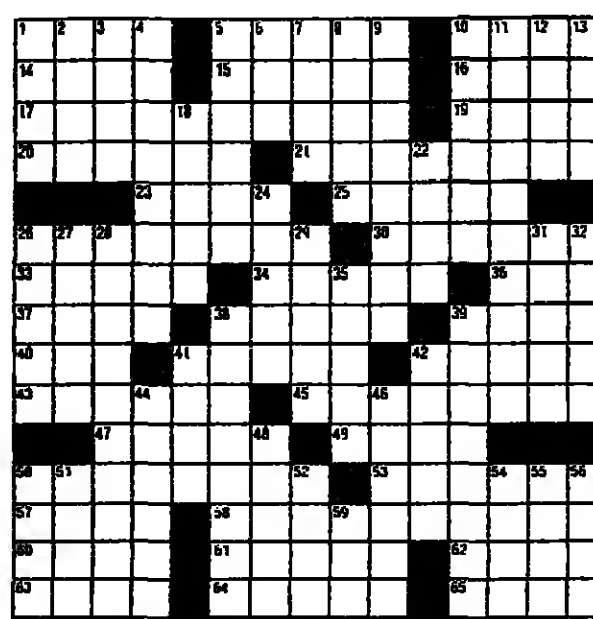
The two sides negotiated last early Saturday and resolved major stumbling blocks to an agreement that would waive off possible retaliatory tariffs of 100 per cent on some Japanese exports to the United States.

A US trade office official said, "we got just about everything we wanted."

The official said the two sides met all day on Thursday and Friday and into early Saturday and would clear up remaining details on Monday after Japanese negotiators consulted with their senior officials in Tokyo.

US Trade Representative Carla Hills cited Japan last May under a clause in the 1987 trade act for its closed markets in satellites, supercomputers and

wood products.

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** — By Dik Browne**AGATHA CRUMM** — By Bill Hoest**BEETLE BAILEY** — By Mort Walker**THE WIZARD OF ID** — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart**ANDY CAPP****B.C.** — By Johnny Hart**HE MAN** — By G. Forton & J. Shull**TODAY'S CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Biting remark
 - 5 Futuristic looks
 - 10 Shoshonean Indians
 - 14 Hautboy
 - 15 Patois
 - 16 Artist's subject
 - 17 One who appears strong, but is weak
 - 19 Ship's jail
 - 20 Dagger
 - 21 Enter
 - 23 Guadeloupe and Martinique
 - 25 Louis or Paul
 - 26 Ready to light
 - 30 Gorgon slain by Perseus
 - 33 Currency
 - 34 Facilitated
 - 36 Butter
 - 37 "Gilt — Lasage novel
 - 38 Manipulator
 - 39 Sicilian landmark
 - 40 Rebutte
 - 41 — Fourche, Dak.
 - 42 Tempests of a sort
 - 43 Up
 - 45 Sprinklers
 - 47 Follows
 - 49 Signs
 - 50 World of boxing
 - 53 Afternoon nap
 - 57 Precedes gram
 - 58 Stop at nothing
 - 60 Blue birds
 - 61 Lower deck
 - 62 Time past
 - 63 Words of understatement
- DOWN**
- 2 "Like — out of hell"
 - 3 Resembling a cord
 - 4 Direct routes
 - 5 Glib speech
 - 6 Silkworm
 - 7 Some are poached
 - 8 Versifiers
 - 9 Decoration
 - 10 Loosen
 - 11 Capsize
 - 12 Redact
 - 13 Utah state flower
 - 18 Truck event
 - 22 — a terre
 - 24 Kitchen emanation
 - 26 Shadow
 - 27 Certain bear
 - 28 Highly unlikely
 - 29 Spanker end
 - 31 More lucid
 - 32 Collect
 - 35 Percolates
 - 38 Five-sided figure
 - 39 Sharp watch
 - 41 River of N and cen Bolivia
 - 42 Chalice
 - 44 Bristly
 - 45 — Fables
 - 48 Night sound
 - 50 Suva is the capital
 - 51 Lupino and Tarell
 - 52 Leatherworkers' tools
 - 54 Evince
 - 55 Ran
 - 56 Matures
 - 59 Torrid

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

MANN JAM STASH
 EOTIE IWO NEARTO
 LETUSBETHANKFUL
 TARTIE ION ESNE
 FORTHEFOOLS
 OTIS OILER
 ASIN TEO BONITO
 BUT FORTHEM MOO
 BOBBIN TON OENT
 AREAS PEPE
 THERESTOFUS
 SHOT NIN RILKE
 COULONOTSUCCEED
 ASTERS ELK IMIN
 MESSY RYE TANA

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

TRUMPS AREN'T ENOUGH AGAINST TOMMY

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
 ♠ A J 7 5
 ♥ A 9 6 5 3 2
 ♦ J 8 3
 ♣ J 10 4 2

EAST
 ♠ 9 6 5 3
 ♥ Void
 ♦ K 8
 ♣ 10 7

WEST
 ♠ A K
 ♥ K Q 8 7
 ♦ A K 4 3 2
 ♣ Q J 4

SOUTH
 ♠ K Q 8 7
 ♥ A K 4 3 2
 ♦ Q J 4
 ♣ J

The bidding:
 North East South West
 Pass Pass 1 Pass
 3 Pass 4 Dbl
 Pass Pass Pass

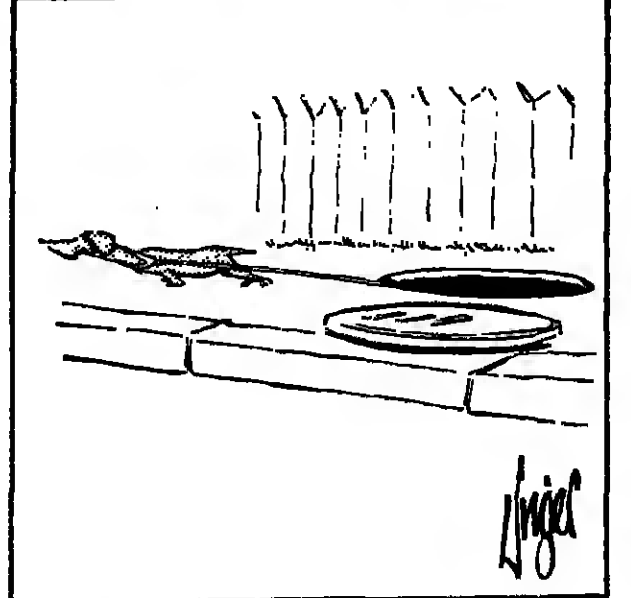
Opening lead: Ace of ♠

Besides being hooked on bridge, Trump Coup Tommy was an ardent skier. Every January he journeyed to St. Moritz, in Switzerland, to play in the annual bridge congress and enjoy the slopes. And every once in a while along would come a hand that suited his peculiar talent of playing well when trumps broke badly, making his *hegira* doubly pleasurable.

North's jump to three diamonds, a one-round force, promised a heart fit, a diamond suit and a good hand. The double fit improved South's hand and Tommy looked like an easy proposition until West overbid the ace. That defender had never played against Tommy before, so did not realize the error of his ways.

Since West's double had to indicate a trump stack, Tommy's interest was immediately awakened. He ruffed the second club and scorned the normal line of drawing a round or two of trumps. Instead, he immediately led the queen of diamonds, covered by the king and won by dummy's ace. Declarer returned to hand with the jack of diamonds, crossed to the ace of spades and ruffed a club, overruffed by West.

West could do no better than return the jack of spades. Tommy won, cashed his remaining high spade and then ruffed a spade on the table. When declarer simply exited with a diamond, West was trapped. That worthy was forced to ruff and a trump return away from the queen allowed declarer to score three trump tricks. In all, Tommy collected three spade tricks, three trump tricks, a ruff in each hand and two diamonds.

**YOUR STARS**

Aries
 March 21 - April 19

Something that you had been sure would indeed not happen. However, on reflection you will find that to have been the best. You should not take too much of anything for granted. Be respectful.



Cancer
 June 21 - July 21

Something you thought would happen will but not quite the way you had hoped. Yet things could have been a great deal worse. Make sure you do not take any needless health or other risks. Be kind.



Libra
 Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

Something to which you had been looking forward will not be quite as rewarding as you had hoped. You should make sure you keep your wits about you. You should reduce expenditure but not by skimping on essential repairs and maintenance. Be abstinent.



Capricorn
 Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

You will have the wind in your sails and you are heading in the right direction, too. However, you should make sure you do not set yourself impossibly high targets. Rely less on others, more on yourself. Be tactful.



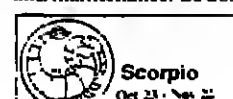
Taurus
 April 20 - May 20

You will have to go a little more easy with those small expenditures; they are mounting up to an outlay beyond your budget. Something you have learnt will now come into its own. Have a good laugh at yourself. Be sparing.



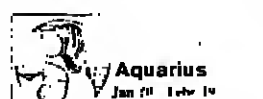
Leo
 July 21 - Aug. 21

Others will put themselves first and you would be silly to expect any different. Make sure you do not leave anything lying about and do not make things easy for burglars. You should not be too hard on others, show a little more understanding. Be forgiving.



Scorpio
 Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Something you had hoped would happen will but it could well happen too late to make an appreciable difference. You are more liable to make mistakes so be on the lookout for them. Do not place too much reliance on others. Be perspicacious.



Aquarius
 Jan. 20 - Feb. 19

You will have some good luck insofar as you will not suffer the full consequences of some foolish act of yours. If you think well of others, you will be rewarded with a clear conscience. Take a little more care about your personal appearance. Be moderate.



Gemini
 May 21 - June 21

Something you have been delaying should now be done without further procrastination. You should give others the benefit of the doubt. Ensure that you get enough rest and take sufficient exercise. Be generous.



Virgo
 Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

You will tire easily and should make sure you get all the rest you need. However, do use a little more willpower and do make just that much of an extra effort. Do not wait for others to make the first move. Be helpful.



Sagittarius
 Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

If you seek to have your cake and eat it too, will not succeed. Try not to lead to sedentary a life take more exercise. Your lucky numbers are 4 and 28. Show a little more goodwill towards others. Be bold.



Pisces
 Feb. 19 - March 20

You would do well to exercise a little more commonsense. Avoid jumping to conclusions and do not rely on conjecture. Instead of asking for still more you should be contented with what you have. Be reasonable.



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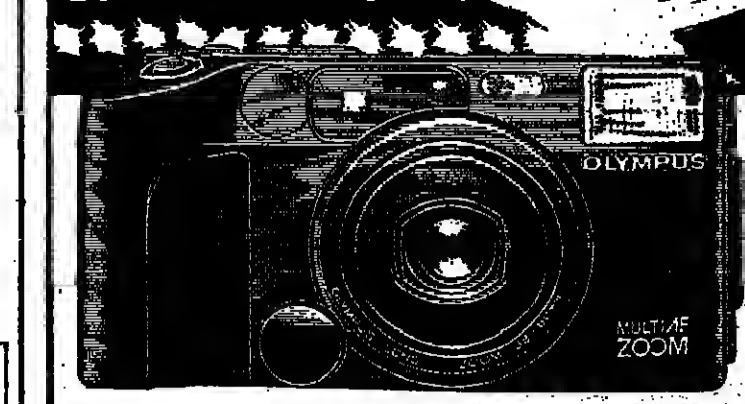
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Rush helps Liverpool regain lead



Arsenal, too, have only seven

Spurs in the third minute before

United are now five points clear of the bottom four, three of whom will be relegated. One of

English Division One			
Arsenal	1	Everton	0
Charlton	1	QPR	0
Chelsea	1	Derby	1
Liverpool	3	Southampton	2
Manchester U.	2	Coventry	2

Liverpool	3	Southampton	2
Manchester U	3	Coventry	0

Maidstone	3	Southend	0
Rochdale	n	Halifax	2
Torquay	1	Aldershot	2
York	1	Hartlepool	1
Played Friday:			
Cardiff	1	Walsingham	

Between	5	Dumbarton	2
Kilmarnock	2	Aberch	2
Montrose	0	East Fife	2
Queen of S	1	E Stirling	1
Queens Park	3	Stirling	1
Stenhousemuir	1	Arbroath	0
Stranraer	1	Cowdenbeath	0

Stranraer	1	Cowdenbeath	2
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BONN, April 1, (Reuters): A second-half goal by defender

Kayelin

ch crown

UNI V and

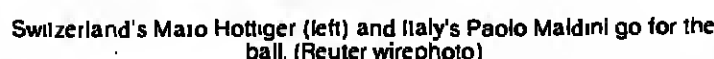
UNLV and Duke move into finals

Next Friday will be the one-day KISL double-elimination tournament with each batter receiving only one pitch. Players should contact their managers for details about game times and rules to be followed.

■ ■ ■

Italy edge Switzerland in friendly

Lyon, in fifth place, surprisingly lost 1-0 at home to Cannes who had to play the second half with 10 men after Juan Herrero was sent off.



League matches yesterday depleted teams in advance of Cup final.

rested seven
a 1-0 through a

Real, Barcelona win with depleted teams

J. Ghanim.

KDD, EEI and

Anderlecht crash

Anderlecht fell two points behind club Bruges in the standings with six more rounds to be played.

Nissan, Al Ghanim, KDD, EEI and KPBC score contrasting victories

Keyes 10, Abajon 10, Alvarado 10. KAI was led by Atoy Kai 33, Marin 19, Alvendia 16, & Evangelista 7. The Mabuhay Best Player of the Game was

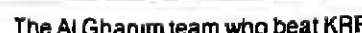
free-throws (One-On-One) off a blocking foul charged on OTC's Martinez with a second left in regulation play. It was a bad



time 51-38 KDD). KDD however suffered a major setback as one of its players was thrown out of the game for

KPBC proved their mastery over the Mr X led KHC-Bayan with a 99-87 win over the latter.

nation Baby-Domingo 17, Macho Man-Castro 11, Arganza 14, the Foreigner-Serrano 14 and De La Cruz 9. KHC-



20 minutes of play, Trico looked very impressive and from all indications at that time, an upset was in the making, half-

capitalised on to seal the title aspirations of the former. After 40 minutes of exciting action, EEI prevailed and the final

at the Mabuhay Restaurant, Fahd Al Salem St, Kuwait City at exactly 8:00 pm. All members of the KPBL Board of Gover-

Francisco Peros, a car polisher
for the Nissan Al Babbain Co.

SPORTS

Seles and Maleeva cruise into hardcourt tennis finals

SAN ANTONIO, April 1, (Reuters): Second-seeded Monica Seles of Yugoslavia and Manuela Maleeva of Switzerland won yesterday and will face each other in the finals of the \$225,000 US Women's Hardcourt Tennis Championships.

Seles, ranked fourth in the world, beat American Rosalyn Fairbank-

Nideffer 6-3 6-0 and Maleeva defeated American Lori McNeil 6-0 6-4.

Seles took a 3-1 lead on two service breaks. But Fairbank-Nideffer held serve at love and closed to 3-2. Seles held the next game, but Fairbank-Nideffer countered with another love game to bring the score to 4-3.

The second set was no contest as Seles used effective passing shots and volleys to capture the one-hour, two-minute match.

Maleeva had little trouble with McNeil, ranked 54th in the world, in the opening set, taking it in 21 minutes.

In the second set, McNeil, who

upset top seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina on Thursday in the first round, held serve and closed to 4-3.

Maleeva hit a forehand down the middle and took a 5-3 lead on her serve. But McNeil countered the next game and smacked a wide passing shot to close to 5-4.

In the 10th game of the set, McNeil

led Maleeva 40-0, but Maleeva brought it to deuce. McNeil took the advantage next point but Maleeva again brought the score to deuce.

Maleeva had match point on a forehand volley, but hit a wide forehand the next shot. She took control, however, by smacking a forehand passing shot for advantage-in and

captured the match on the next point with another passing shot.

"I tried to keep her away from the net," said Maleeva, who lost in the finals of a Chicago women's tournament to Martina Navratilova in February. "I was passing very well. I felt I could pass from any position if I had to."

"We're both backcourt players, so it could be a long match," said Seles of her pending championship match. "Maleeva is a consistent player. There will be long rallies."

Seles and Maleeva have played three times. The 16-year-old Seles has won all matches and has not dropped a set to the 23-year-old Maleeva.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Yugoslav star

BELGRADE, April 1, (Reuters): Star midfielder Dragan Stojkovic will have to earn his place in the Yugoslav squad for the World Cup soccer finals in Italy, national team coach (Ivan Osim said yesterday. Osim, unhappy with Stojkovic's contribution in the goalless draw with Poland on Wednesday, complained that he was "playing too much like a superstar rather than an able midfielder who should feed his team mates."

Woodlands Open

WOODLANDS, Texas, April 1, (Reuters): Hal Sutton and David Peoples tied for a three-stroke lead at 11-under-par 133 after two rounds of the \$1 million, rain-shortened Woodlands Open men's golf tournament yesterday.

Australian golf

MONTPELLIER, France, April 1, (Reuters): Golfer Wayne Riley needed a driver of a different kind after holing in one at the AGF Open yesterday. Riley's ace with a nineiron at the 151-yard 16th won him a £20,000 (\$33,000) car. But the Australian was unable to drive the vehicle away — he lost his licence for drinking and driving just two weeks ago.

Cup sites

ROME, April 1, (Reuters): Construction workers in Turin will stage a four-hour strike on Tuesday to protest against inadequate safety on World Cup building sites and try to halt what a union leader called a programmed slaughter.

Rebel tours

JOHANNESBURG, April 1, (Reuters): South African cricket chief Ali Bacher yesterday signalled the end of the boycott-breaking rebel tours which have angered anti-apartheid movements over the past decade. "In my opinion the era of unofficial tours is now over. They have served their purpose and now we have to evolve a new cricketing structure in South Africa that embraces all so that we have a common future, common goals and common pride," Bacher said in a statement.

Final appearance

CRANS MONTANA, Switzerland, April 1, (AP): Some 6,000 fans lined the slopes yesterday to bid farewell to four-time world champion Pirmin Zurbriggen on his final appearance before retiring from competition.

McGirt wins

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, April 1, (AP): Buddy McGirt, the IBF's No. 1 ranked welterweight, stopped Tommy Ayers in the second round of a scheduled 10-round fight yesterday.

Freestyle wrestling

TOLEDO, Ohio, April 1, (UPI): The United States took seven of 10 bouts from Turkey and the Soviets won all 10 from Canada in yesterday's first round of the World Cup of freestyle wrestling.

Hockey tours

BRUSSELS, April 1, (Reuters): Australia will stage the men's World Cup hockey tournament in 1994 and Ireland will host the women's event, the International Hockey Federation said yesterday.

Rugby sevens

HONG KONG, April 1, (Reuters): Results in the Hong Kong Sevens rugby union tournament on Sunday: Quarterfinals: New Zealand 20 Scottish Borders 12; British Barbarians 18 Western Samoa 10.

Semifinals: Fiji 28 Tonga 12; Wales 16 Australia 10.

Final: New Zealand 24 British Barbarians 6.

Fiji 34 Wales 6.

Sumo wrestler

Popular Hawaiian-born sumo wrestler Konishiki shakes hands with a boy while walking along Tokyo's Akihabara shopping area. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sumo wrestler

Sumo wrestler

Sumo wrestler

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Grabb upsets Lendl

Chang tames Reneberg

CHICAGO, April 1, (Reuters): Jim Grabb, known more for his doubles than singles play, upset top-seed Ivan Lendl 6-3 6-4 yesterday to advance to the finals of the \$500,000 Chicago men's tennis tournament.

Grabb will face second-seed and fellow-American Michael Chang, who battled his way into the final with a 7-6 (8-6) 0-6 6-4 victory over Richey Reneberg.

Chang fought back from double set point to force a tiebreaker in the first set. The French Open champion and world number nine totally dominated the second set.

In the deciding third set, Chang broke Reneberg in the first game, got broken in the sixth and broke back in the pivotal ninth, putting Reneberg away with a devastating passing shot down the line as Reneberg charged the net. Chang then held serve to clinch the match.

The fifth seeded Grabb, 25, used a powerful serve and volley game to beat the world number one from Czechoslovakia.

Grabb jumped out to an early 3-0 advantage, breaking Lendl in the second game. He froze Lendl with two passing shots down the line and then Lendl double faulted.

Australia will now meet either Argentina or West Germany in a semifinal to be played in Australia from September 21-23, with White City, Sydney, being tipped as the most likely venue, ahead of Perth.

The host country went into today's second round with a 2-1 lead, with singles honours on the first day even, with Masur beating Evernden and Steven coming back from two sets down to beat Fitzgerald.

Carl-Uwe Steeb and his West German team mates shrugged off the continued absence of Boris Becker and the disadvantage of playing on South American clay to take a 2-1 lead over Argentina.

Steeb's pre-tie predictions that the reigning Cup champions could win again even without Wimbledon and US Open champion Becker, had seemed over-confident before the team travelled to Buenos Aires for the world group tie.

But the idea seemed less fanciful after an aggres-



Chang to face Grabb in final

Up 5-2, Grabb led 40-15 but committed two unforced errors in trying to convert two set points. Pressing at deuce, Grabb's hard forehand volley went into the net and he mis-hit an attempted drop shot to lose the game.

Down love-40 in the last game of the first set, Lendl rallied, returning serve like a rocket past Grabb who then double faulted and had an unforced error taking the game to deuce. Lendl missed the service return giving Grabb the advantage. Grabb's fifth ace of the match for the first set winner left Lendl staring into space.

Lendl held serve at love to start the second set and the crowd sensed a comeback. He closed out third game with two aces, his second and third of the match as they both held through the fifth game.

Up 3-2, Grabb faced two break points and rushed the net to put away a tough volley and followed up with a cross court winner. His fifth ace of the match put him level at three.

Grabb averted disaster again in the eighth game, saving off two more break points before saving it with his serve.

Riding this momentum, and with Lendl appearing disheartened, Grabb broke Lendl to go up 5-4 as Lendl missed two volleys at deuce.

Lendl could not handle Grabb's serve in the last game, missing the first two serves and getting aced on the next two as Grabb closed him out quickly.

Australia reach semifinals

BRISBANE, Australia, April 1, (UPI): Australia surged to its 16th Davis Cup semifinal in 19 years today with a 3-2 win over New Zealand.

Playing on grass at Milton Courts, Australia's Wally Masur was far too strong for New Zealand's Brett Steven, to win comfortably 7-5, 6-2, 6-4 and take Australia to an unbeatable 3-1 lead.

New Zealand's Kelly Evernden hit back to beat John Fitzgerald in the 'dead' last rubber, which nevertheless was played in earnest, 7-5, 6-7 (8-10), 6-1.

Australia will now meet either Argentina or West Germany in a semifinal to be played in Australia from September 21-23, with White City, Sydney, being tipped as the most likely venue, ahead of Perth.

The host country went into today's second round with a 2-1 lead, with singles honours on the first day even, with Masur beating Evernden and Steven coming back from two sets down to beat Fitzgerald.

Carl-Uwe Steeb and his West German team mates shrugged off the continued absence of Boris Becker and the disadvantage of playing on South American clay to take a 2-1 lead over Argentina.

Steeb's pre-tie predictions that the reigning Cup champions could win again even without Wimbledon and US Open champion Becker, had seemed over-confident before the team travelled to Buenos Aires for the world group tie.

But the idea seemed less fanciful after an aggres-

sive and impressive Steeb had beaten Argentina's top man Martin Jaite in a rubber held over from Friday and doubles pair Eric Jelen and Michael Stich had put West Germany 2-1 ahead.

Austria, the surprise of last year when they beat former champions Australia 5-0 on their world group debut, became the first nation to reach this season's semifinals with a remarkably easy win against Italy.

Victory by Austrian doubles pair Thomas Muster and Alexander Antonitsch gave the team an unsailable 3-0 lead and put them into the last four for the first time.

But to reach the final for the first time, Muster and his colleagues now have to get past either 23-time champions the United States or Czechoslovakia.

The Czechoslovaks' hopes of winning their tie were severely dented by a curious decision by captain Frantisek Pala to use his singles players, Milan Srejber and Petr Korda, in yesterday's doubles in Prague.

The duo were preferred to Tomas Smid and Karel Novacek, who had been expected to play Rick Leach and Jim Fugh, the world's top doubles pair, yesterday.

But Srejber and Korda, a late replacement for injured Olympic champion Miloslav Mecir, were both tired after Friday's singles, which had ended 1-1, and they were easily beaten 6-4 6-4 6-4 to put the Americans 2-1 ahead going into the final day.

Navratilova eliminated

HOUSTON, (AP): Fourth-seeded Katerina Maleeva upset top-seeded Martina Navratilova 6-4, 2-6, 6-1 last night in a semifinal match in the Virginia Slims of Houston tournament.

Maleeva was to play third-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in today's championship match. Vicario won a marathon, 3-hour match earlier yesterday over No. 2 seed Zina Garrison, the hometown favourite.

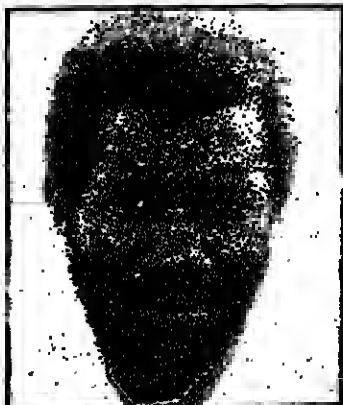
Garrison won the first set 6-7 on a 7-4 tiebreaker, but Sanchez Vicario beat her in the next set 6-3. Sanchez Vicario was down 4-1 and then 5-3 in the third set but she battled back to force another tiebreaker that she won 9-7. The final score was 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 7-6 (9-7).

Sanchez Vicario, ranked fifth in the world, said she grew weary during the match that lasted three hours.

Gower out for four, Barbados on top



David Gower



Malcolm Marshall



Nasser Hussain

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, April 1, (Reuters): Former captain David Gower, newly recalled by England, managed just four runs in his first innings in half a year on the second day of a three-day cricket match against Barbados yesterday.

England were dismissed for 158 in their first innings — 209 runs behind — after Eddie Hemmings had precipitated a Barbados collapse at the start of the day with four wickets for seven runs.

Barbados, who went from 340 for four to 367 all out, declined to enforce the follow-on after removing England and were 67 for one at stumps.

Gower, covering the West Indies tour as a journalist and broadcaster after he had been overlooked as a player, was drafted into the side because of injuries.

He came in at number six after four wickets has gone for 56 and, with just one net this year, looked understandably uncomfortable in his 20-ball stay.

Dropped at third slip off Victor Walcott when on three, Gower was out when he turned Tony Johnson off his legs but failed to keep the ball down, giving a straightforward catch to Roland Holder at square leg.

England will take considerable encouragement, however, from a superb innings from Nasser Hussain, who made an unbeaten 70 from 136 balls and played some fine shots.

It was Hussain's first innings in over a month, following a wrist injury, and his highest score of the tour. It included 12 fours.

Hussain came in when fast-bowler Malcolm Marshall was in full flight after dismissing both openers. He played with increasing authority and put away virtually every loose ball he received.

Marshall, like Hussain, was back in action after a long lay-off, having made his last appearance four weeks ago in the third one-day international when he broke a finger.

Marshall ripped through the early order. Makeshift opener David Capel was caught at third slip after edging one that lifted and left him, while Alec Stewart hit an aggressive 21 but was out when an attempted cut flew high to second slip where Carlisle Best held a brilliant catch.

After Rob Bailey had been caught at first slip for only seven off Walcott, Marshall dismissed Robin Smith with a classic exhibition of seam bowling.

Having moved two balls away, he nipped one back to win an lbw appeal against his Hampshire colleague, who had offered no stroke.

Allan Lamb, in his first innings as captain, was out for only eight when he played across the off-spin of Henderson Springer and was lbw.

Phil DeFreitas went in identical fashion while Chris Lewis and Keith Medlycott were both caught at first slip. Medlycott going first ball.

The Barbados tail had completely disintegrated at the start of the day, with the last four wickets going down for only two runs.

Eddie Hemmings took four

wickets for seven in six overs. He had Marshall caught at long-off, bowled Ricky Hoyte — grandson of the great Everton Weekes — with a quicker ball, trapped Springer lbw on the back foot and had Johnson caught at extra-cover.

Gordon Greenidge, 163 not out overnight, finally went for 183 when Medlycott held a marvellous one-handed catch off his own bowling. Greenidge batted for nearly six and a half hours, hitting 21 fours and two sixes, and faced 315 balls.

Greenidge was not quite as dominant in the Barbados second innings, scoring 31 in 25 overs.

Desmond Haynes, however, was out for the sixth successive time for under 50 against England when he played across DeFreitas and was lbw for 13.

Scoreboard

BARBADOS first innings (overnight 340 for four)

C. Greenidge c and b Medlycott 183
D. Haynes c Bailey b DeFreitas 9
C. Best c DeFreitas b Medlycott 95
T. Paynter b Medlycott 0
R. Holder lbw b Hemmings 18
M. Marshall c Lewis b Hemmings 24
R. Hoyte b Hemmings 2
H. Springer lbw b Hemmings 2
A. Johnson c Lamb b Hemmings 0
S. Skeete c Capel b Medlycott 1
V. Walcott not out 1
Extras (b-3 lb-8 nb-21) 32
Total 367
Fall of wickets: 1-32 2-247 3-250 4-269 5-345 6-359 7-365 8-365 9-367
Bowling: DeFreitas 17-1-60-1, Lewis 11-1-51-0, Capel 10-0-53-0, Hemmings 32-12-77-6, Medlycott 30-3-115-4

ENGLAND first innings

A. Stewart c Best b Marshall 21
D. Capel c Greenidge b Marshall 3
R. Bailey c aub b Walcott 0
N. Hussain not out 70
R. Smith lbw b Marshall 1
D. Gower c Holder b Johnson 4
A. Lamb lbw b Springer 4
P. DeFreitas lbw b Springer 10
C. Lewis c Best b Walcott 6
K. Medlycott c Best b Springer 0
E. Hemmings b Walcott 0
Extras (b-8 lb-5 w-2 nb-13) 28
Total 158
Fall of wickets: 1-25 2-36 3-52 4-56 5-87 6-110 7-128 8-156 9-157
Bowling: Marshall 16-3-57-3, Skeete 6-1-21-0, Walcott 12-4-25-3, Johnson 6-0-21-1, Springer 5-1-21-3
BARBADOS second innings
G. Greenidge not out 31
D. Haynes lbw b DeFreitas 13
C. Best not out 12
Extras (b-1 lb-5 nb-5) 11
Total (for one wicket) 67
Bowling (to date): DeFreitas 6-1-18-1, Capel 8-1-28-0, Lewis 6-1-8-0, Medlycott 5-2-9-0



Oxford (left) on their way to victory (Reuters wirephoto)

Oxford win boat race

LONDON, April 1, (Reuters): Oxford, the overwhelming favourites, comfortably won the 136th University Boat Race yesterday when they beat Cambridge by seven seconds.

Employing the heaviest crew in the history of the race, Oxford used their 12.5-kgs per man advantage to full effect, winning in 17 minutes 15 seconds — the quickest time for five years — over the 6.9 kms River Thames course.

Cambridge threatened a surprise when they took the lead early on. But Oxford, whose eight included Christopher Heathcote, who at 110.2 kgs was the heaviest man in the event's history, gradually overhauled the underdogs and from the two-km mark never looked like being caught.

The victory continued Oxford's recent domination of the race. It was their 14th win in the last 15 races.

Nicklaus vaults into lead

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz., April 1, (Reuters): Jack Nicklaus, making his debut on the Senior Tour chipped in from 35 feet for an eagle on the last hole yesterday to take a two-stroke lead into the final round of the \$800,000 Scottsdale golf tournament.

Nicklaus drilled a one-iron second shot to the back fringe of the par-4 18th and his superb chip gave him a 36-hole total of 138, six under par, and a two-shot advantage over fellow American Phil Rodgers.

Thursday's opening round was washed out by rain and the tournament, shortened to 54 holes, ends today.

BOXING

Norris knocks out Mugabi

TAMPA, Fla., April 1, (Reuters): American Terry Norris knocked out defending champion John Mugabi of Uganda in the first round of the World Boxing Council super welterweight title.

The seventh-ranked Norris, 22, whacked Mugabi with a thunderous left hook flush on the chin, sending the Ugandan staggering until he dropped to the canvas in the opening minute of the scheduled 12-round fight.

Mugabi, 38, making his first title defence since winning the title by stopping Rene Jacquet in the first round last July, took a eight count before the fight continued.

Mugabi tried to hold off the fast-charging Norris, but with just 13 seconds remaining in the round, Norris caught Mugabi with a looping right hand, sending Mugabi down again.

A dazed Mugabi laid motionless on the mat for several minutes. He was counted out at two minutes and 47 seconds of the round.

Norris, who raised his record to 25-3 with 14 fights stopped, danced around the ring as his handlers joined in celebration.

It was Mugabi's third loss against 37 victories.

Mugabi was sluggish at the start, landing few punches. Mugabi landed a right hand early in the round and Norris countered with a short left hook that sent Mugabi reeling and then finally to the canvas.

With his mouthpiece in the centre of the ring, Mugabi stumbled to his feet at the count of eight. Norris landed several punches before putting Mugabi away with an overhand right.

Galvano triumphs

CAPO D'ORLANDO, Italy, April 1, (Reuters): Italy's Mauro Galvano won the new European super middleweight boxing crown when he beat Martin Kaylor of Britain in the first title fight of the newly-created division early this morning.

Galvano, 26, collapsed on the canvas in tears when his victory on points over the more experienced Briton, three years his senior, was announced at the end of the fight, grueling 12-round bout in this Sicilian seaside resort.

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